

**18 December 2011
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -Year B**



Though Christmas is still a few days away, today the liturgical readings already invite us to reflect on the presence of God in our midst. His presence is enlivening and reassuring. It is not the presence of the spy or of the judge that fills people with uneasiness and fear. Rather, God's presence among us is the source of our salvation. It is an undeserved gift that transforms our lives, filling them with hope and peace. But if we want to enjoy all these benefits, we must respond adequately to God's presence in us. We do that by opening our hearts to Him with gratitude and eagerness, following the example of Mary Most Holy who declares her total availability to do whatever God wants. Let this be our disposition today.



The **SIMBANGGABI 2011** is being held nightly at 7:30 p.m. until December 23. We hope you are joining us in this age-old Filipino tradition of preparing for the Birth of Christ with full solemnity and devotion as an expression of our faith in God. Bring your friends along !

Offering Envelopes



YEAR 2012 ENVELOPES are now available for pick-up after each Mass. Please contact Mr. Raymundo Foz or the FCMM Office.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

YOU HAVE UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST TO GIVE YOUR DONATIONS WHICH YOU WISH TO BE CREDITED TO THE TAXATION YEAR 2011 !

As the End of the Year approaches, we would encourage those of you who can to recall the FCMM in your end of the year giving. If you are among those blessed with resources and looking for a way to give, please consider an extra gift to the FCMM: for the care of the church, the teaching of faith to our young people, the support of various tools of communication and evangelization, the building of communion with those in need. Thank you for your care, and blessings always.



- December 24 (SATURDAY)
 - 8:00 p.m.- CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
- December 25 (SUNDAY)
 - 1:00 p.m. – CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
- December 28(WEDNESDAY)
 - Regular Schedule - 6:00 p.m. Mass
- December 30 (FRIDAY)

- 6:00 p.m. – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASS

December 31 (SATURDAY)

7:00 p.m. – NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL & Thanksgiving Mass

January 1, 2012 (SUNDAY)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

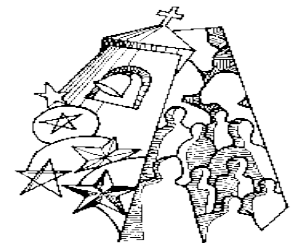
- 1:00 p.m. –NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

January 4 & 6(WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY)

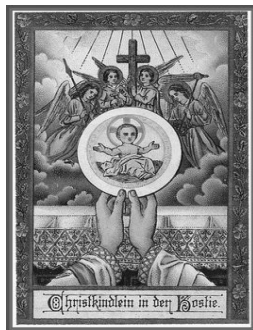
- Regular Schedule - 6:00 p.m. Mass

January 8 (SUNDAY)

- 11:30 a.m.- EPIPHANY OF THE LORD MASS



THANK YOU VERY MUCH to everyone who made last Week-end's celebration of our 22ND Anniversary a **BIG Success !**
MABUHAY ang Simbahang Pilipino ng Montreal !



CHRIST IS THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

These ideas are not devotionals, but rather a resource to help readers see some sacramental aspects of ordinary Christmas activity. These ideas offer things to think about - and pray about - while you do the things you likely would be doing anyway, so that as many holiday activities as possible keep reminding you what the season is really all about: ***Christ is the Heart of Christmas!***

These **reflections, prayers** and **accents** are for those who want to be reminded of the many graces of Christmas. Like salt, they can enrich the sights, sounds, smells and traditions of the season by **focusing them on Christ**, the real reason for all the celebrating.

*** When You Unpack the First Christmas Decorations**

As familiar as many of the decorations are after being used year after year, there is always something new and exciting about getting them out again. You see one or two you may have forgotten about. Others have **special memories attached to them**. They were in your home all the time, but now you are getting ready to **use** them. The story of God's love in Christ is like that. It's there all the time. We know about it because we have experienced it before in the sacraments or in God's special graces. And yet each "unpacking" can be new and exciting. If we approach it with eager anticipation. God's love and grace have been there all the time, waiting to be used! *As you unpack the decorations, recall the times in your life when God's love had the most impact on you.*

PRAY TODAY, that your faith, as old as your Baptism, may be a new experience of the Holy Spirit's love and power in your life.

*** When You Attend Mass or Special Advent Services**

Advent often means extra trips to church for Mass and reception of the sacraments and special services. At the start of Advent, you may be enthusiastic. But that mood can change. Are there times when you feel it's a bother to go to Mass during the holiday season? And if so, does this suggest that we may even need to ask forgiveness for our poor attendance, for not going when we might, or for not really having our whole heart in it when we do?

We must remember that the Mass and sacraments are not some kind of "favor we do for God", but - as always - **a favor he does for us**, another opportunity to hear of His love for us Christ, an opportunity for His Holy Spirit to rekindle and strengthen our faith in Christ, who is the Heart - the Source and the Goal - of all our worship. *When you go to Mass, remember you are meeting and receiving the same Lord whose birth we celebrate this season*

PRAY TODAY, for the ability truly to listen to the message of the Church's holiday liturgy.

*** When Company is Coming**

How pleasant to have company at holiday time! It's good to be able to share one's home and its hospitality, especially when everything is so festive.

Having guests can be a reminder that **our Lord also comes to be a Guest in your home**. He is with you not only in your prayers and devotions but in all the activities that go on here. Do you always make Him feel welcome? Having company can also serve as a reminder that in the Christ of Christmas God has invited you to be a guest forever in His heavenly home. And He has done so much to make you feel welcome! "Whoever receives you receives Me," Jesus said. When the guest arrive, receive them as you would receive Him. . . for that is exactly what is happening! *When the company is here, say a prayer together (perhaps at the table) which recognizes Jesus as THE Guest who make every gathering a blessed event.*

PRAY TODAY, for all homeless wanderers and those far away from home.

*** When You Have Something "Seasonal" to Eat or Drink**

There are certain things that seem to "taste like Christmas," perhaps something that you enjoy at no other time of the year; you "save" them for the holidays.

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good," the Bible invites us (Ps. 34:8), even as it reminds us that the reason Jesus was born among us was "so that by the grace of God He might taste death for every one" (Heb. 2:9), drinking the cup of our suffering to the very bottom (Matt. 26:42). **The good tastes of Christmas, therefore, may remind us of the Eucharist**, as well as the divine banquet the Lord has in store for us in heaven. They may also urge us not to withhold the good things we have to eat and drink from others who are hungry or thirsty. At the first Christmas the hospitality of the inn was denied to some in need. That should not happen again! *Determine to make some special gift this Christmas for the benefit of the needy.*

Give it with a prayer of thanksgiving for all the good you have received.

PRAY TODAY, for the world's needy, especially for those whose need you propose to help alleviate in the name of Jesus.



Raise funds for the FCMM every time you shop!

Shopping cards for many local stores, gasoline stations, and supermarkets are now available to all who wish to support our church. Cards are available in amounts from \$25.00 to \$100.00. **5% of your purchase goes to support our parish!**

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PUT IN YOUR ORDERS TO BE ABLE TO GET THEM IN TIME BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

For more information and details see Ms. Marites Quirapas

CHRISTMAS HOSPITALITY

The Holy Family had a hard time finding room on Christmas Night. This is a lesson for all Christians. As members of a parish family, we have the wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors to our wonderful Church and liturgies. With this comes the responsibility of offering hospitality all throughout the year and especially at times when we receive many visitors. Let us remember to make place for strangers especially this Holiday Season by:



MOVE FORWARD: Taking a seat up front allows the back section to be more readily available for latecomers who may be seated with less disturbance to the liturgy.

MAKE ROOM: Our pews are designed to fit at least 8 people. Do not let your coats occupy space which could otherwise be used by a person.

SEAT-SAVING: We only reserve pews up front for liturgical ministers and animators during the liturgies. You need to come early and find places elsewhere.

BE PATIENT and FRIENDLY: You may not get the seat you prefer or any seat at all. Neither did the Holy Family. Bearing the burden of inconvenience can be an opportunity to practice the Gospel values of patience, endurance and kindness to strangers.

IMPORTANT: Please remember that according to the current fire code regulations, people are not permitted to line up along the walls of the Church. Fire Marshalls can come any time and clear everyone out and shut down the Church.

FAITH IS BEST EXPRESSED BY WORD AND DEED. We may be the only 'Gospel' a person reads for a long time or even a lifetime. We can make the difference in building up the faith of others If we act as Ambassadors of Christ by our example.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN BEING MINSITERS OF HOSPITALITY !

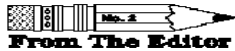


TRAVELING?

Don't forget to go to Mass! For nationwide Mass times and locations, please visit www.MassTimes.org.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** with the **THANKSGIVING INTENTIONS** of **Mr. & Mrs. Alvin & Hilda Veloso**.



From The Editor

The usual hospitality, acknowledgment, and stewardship corners of our news bulletin will be back in January 2012.



Pagkalooban nawa kayo at ang inyong mag-anak ng kasaganaan ng biyaya ni Hesus.

ISANG PINAGPALANG PASKO SA LAHAT!

