



**19 December 2010
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -Year A**

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we are invited to follow St. Joseph's example. Like him, we are asked to place ourselves totally at the service of God in the fulfillment of His plan of salvation. It is only by doing so that we will be able to experience real peace and be assured of our final success. The Lord, who created the world without us, could easily bring His plan to completion without us. But this is not what He usually does. He elevates us to the role of "partners" in the fulfillment of His plan, out of appreciation for our dignity, freedom, and other qualities that He has endowed us with. If we say "Yes," His sure success will also be our success.



The **SIMBANGGABI 2010** 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 !



YEAR 2011 ENVELOPES are now available for pick-up after each Mass. Please contact Mr. Mel Villanueva, 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 2010,

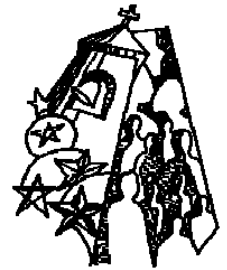


- December 24 (FRIDAY)
 - 8:00 p.m.- CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
- December 25 (SATURDAY)
 - 12:30 noon – CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
- December 26 (SUNDAY)
 - 11:30 a.m. – FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASS
- December 29(WEDNESDAY)
 - Regular Schedule - 6:00 p.m. Mass

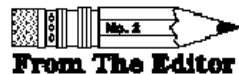
December 31 (FRIDAY)
8:00 p.m. – NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL & Thanksgiving Mass

January 1, 2011 (SATURDAY)
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
▪ 12:30 noon –NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

January 2 (SUNDAY)
11:30 a.m. – THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



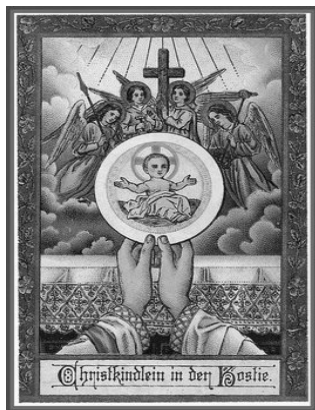
The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** with the **THANKSGIVING INTENTIONS** of *Mr. & Mrs. Alvin & Hilda Veloso.*



The usual hospitality, acknowledgment, and stewardship corners of our news bulletin will be back in January 2011. Thanks !



We take this opportunity today to welcome all our brothers and sisters who are visiting us this joyful season. Although you may not be able to visit us regularly, we are happy that you are with us during these Special Days and we hope that you will visit your spiritual home of THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC MISSION OF MONTREAL more often. Be assured of our fraternal prayers for all of you !



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.



A CHRISTMAS WISH

Oh, how I wish that every day were Christmas in every corner of the world! Not so much for the ever-favorite carols or the touching cribs;

not even for the long vacation, nor for the bonus or the big parties . . . For all their pleasantness, these things are not Christmas. They are just "wrappers" meant to highlight the preciousness of the gift within. Christmas is much more than we can make or dream. Christmas is *GOD WITH US*. Christmas is *GOD IN US*. Such is the wonder that He alone can bring about. And, as He does it, deep in the secret of our hearts, we are made "new."

This is the reason why people feel different at Christmas. We all feel "good," joyful and generous. Even the fighters refrain from fighting, thieves stop their evil trade. For one day, at least, people intend to live as *loving beings*. And everybody wonders what the world would be like if every day were Christmas. And if I could have my way and make the Christmas spirit last for ever in me and around me, we would have "Christmas-day *two*," then *three*, then *four* . . . And we would stop only when numbers end. Thus, Christmas would become an ever-lasting event, as it was meant to be. That was God's plan when He "invented" Christmas - the first, the original, the best . . . the one that was meant to last. How sad we spoiled so much of it, or invented ever new wrappers while ignoring the gift . . . But I know things can get better again. So, dearest Jesus, on your Birthday, may I be granted my Christmas wish: Make all months December and every day in it the 25th. Then will this "season of love" become a permanent event. Then will all men and women become "Christmas people," thanks to the wonders that You effect in us, on Christmas day.



—Anonymous



FROM THE FCMM FAMILY TO YOURS:

May this Christmas bring you closer to the Lord of Light in whatever darkness you may be enduring.

May you know His peace in your hearts and trust in His bountiful mercy for all your concerns.

May grace be your constant companion and your presence a reflection of the Good News we have been given, again, in the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

