

30 December 2012 - THE HOLY FAMILY (Year C)



By a happy coincidence, this year, the Feast of the Holy Family falls on the last Sunday of the year. This gives us a further reason to raise our minds and hearts to God in gratitude for the many blessings He has granted our families during the year that is about to end. Although we may not be fully aware of all the blessings we have received from the Lord, the little we know is more than enough to bring us to thank Him with all our hearts, especially through the Eucharistic Sacrifice. This is also the time to entrust our own family, as well as all the families throughout the world, to the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth during the new year we are about to begin. May the Lord be the heart of our family. May we love and serve Him as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph did. May He watch over us as He loved and protected the Holy Family of Nazareth.



MAKING OUR FAMILIES HAPPY AND HOLY

Praying together as a family seems no longer fashionable nowadays. The reasons are varied: so many commitments, conflicts of schedule, practical impossibility of being together. There are, of course, happy exceptions of parents who, every evening, gather their children for some moments of reflection on the Word of God, reconciliation, shared prayer, and recitation of the Rosary. These same people are the ones who, on Sundays, attend the Eucharistic celebration as a family. From this, they derive strength, harmony, cohesion. And at the same time, they become an inspiration to the whole parish community. It is when the family gathers together for prayer that its members – both parents and children – see themselves under the common fatherly authority of God. A family that renews every day its covenant with the Lord will have no time for endless bickerings, jealousy, unfaithfulness, harsh manners on the part of the parents, or rebellion on the part of their children. The families that pray together are really "little Churches." One wishes that these exceptions might become ever more numerous, till they become the rule!

It is in the family that the reform of society begins, because it is there that we learn to respect and help one another, we practise patience and justice, we learn to share and to love in an unselfish and practical manner.

A family where God is at home is a family at peace. Such was the Holy Family at Nazareth. And the yearly celebration of its feast is not just a well-deserved tribute paid to its three members. It is also an invitation and encouragement to make our families today what the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus was in those days – A haven of love of God and neighbor at its best, a home where God felt at home.

A Prayer for the Family



Jesus, our Most Loving Redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth. In this way, You sanctified that family, which was to be an example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family, which we dedicate and consecrate to You this day. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in holy fear, in peace, and in the harmony of Christian charity. By conforming ourselves to the Divine model of Your family, may we attain to eternal happiness.

New St. Joseph People's Prayer Book





Worship SCHEDULE

December 31 (MONDAY)

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

January 1, 2013 (TUESDAY) SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

- 1:00 p.m. –NEW EYAR'S DAY MASS

January 2 and 4 (WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY)

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

January 3 (SUNDAY)

- 11:30 a.m. – THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



YEAR 2013 ENVELOPES are now available for pick-up after each Mass. Please contact Mr. Mel Villanueva, Mr. Pedro Diaz, Jr. 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 2012,

As you consider your year-end tax planning, we hope that you will consider making good use of your income tax charitable deduction. Your 2012 year-end gift to the FCMM can significantly reduce your income taxes, while providing meaningful support to the various ministries that are vital to the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of our Church. Thanks for your past and continued generosity.




FEAST OF THE STO. NIÑO – A Special Celebration of the Feast of the Sto. Niño will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. There will be the recitation of the Novena Prayers, Blessing of Children and Blessing of Images after the Mass. Devotees who would like to sponsor the Mass are

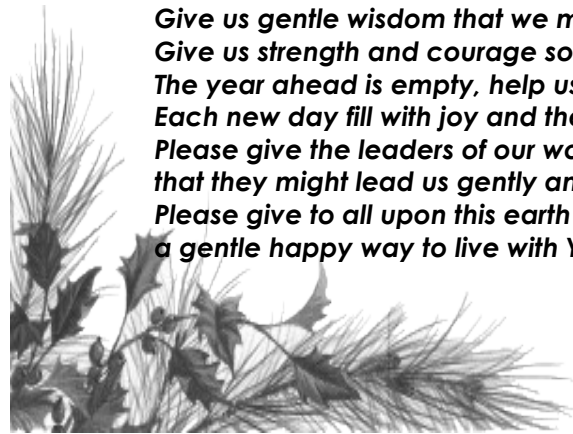
requested to contact Mrs. Susie Alejandro, Mrs. Luming Silverio or the FCMM Office. A pot-luck reception and Fiesta Filipino Program will follow after at the Church Basement. MARK THE DATE !



The SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **FOR SPECIAL INTENTIONS** offered by **CARING, BUTCH, BABY LYNN and LAIZA.**



Father Frank, Sister Luz, Sister Celia, Fruan, Butch, the Pastoral Council and Administrators wish all of you and your families a Happy, Holy and Safe New Year !



*Thank you Lord for giving us the brand new year ahead.
Help us live the way we should as each new day we tread.
Give us gentle wisdom that we might help a friend.
Give us strength and courage so a shoulder we might lend.
The year ahead is empty, help us fill it with good things.
Each new day fill with joy and the happiness it brings.
Please give the leaders of our world a courage born of peace,
that they might lead us gently and all the fighting cease.
Please give to all upon this earth a heart that's filled with love;
a gentle happy way to live with Your blessings from above.*



Happy New Year



SISTERS, AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST,
Once again, we are on the threshold of a New Year! What challenges will it bring ? We can't tell the future but we still wish each other a Happy and Healthy New Year !

In our modern context, we hope for a year with more fraternity and peace among nations. This hope for the future includes our own immediate surroundings, communities, work environments, and families. Peace is only possible if we are willing to give our best.

This year, at the invitation of Pope Benedict XVI, we celebrate a Year of Faith. It is an exceptional way to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the start of Vatican Council II which explore the possibilities for our Church adapted to our modern context. Much has been done, but there is still much more to accomplish.

We know that Faith is God's gift to us, a gift which we must welcome and allow to flourish. Our faith involves complete trust, confidence, and love for God. Faith is shared and celebrated with our brothers and sisters.

Faith does not take root and grow without our involvement and firm commitment as St. James reminds us in the epistle. The Gospel tells us that faith, though as tiny as a mustard seed, can still move mountains.

We have two simple but important wishes- for PEACE and FAITH in our lives.

January 1 is also World Day of Peace.

The proper, official title of the 1st day of the New Year in the Church calendar is the

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,

a title which embraces all other titles and feasts of Mary, and defines her role in God's plan of salvation. As mother of Christ, she is therefore mother of the whole body of Christ, the Church, she is our mother ! The idea is that the Church fittingly entrusts us to our spiritual mother right at the beginning of the year.

A caring mother knows best. The powerful



intercession of the Blessed Mother is illustrated in the following apocryphal story: Our Lord was making his rounds in heaven. As he did, he noticed some suspicious-looking Filipinos or TNTs (*Tago Ng Tago*). The Lord summoned St. Peter, the gatekeeper, and asked: "Why are these seedy characters here? Who allowed them to enter?" Peter scratched his head and sheepishly said, "Lord, I keep on barring them away from the gate, but they hang around by the window and the lady lets them in." "What lady are you referring to?" the Lord asked. Peter pointed at the woman whose back was turned. When our Lord approached her to find out who she was, it turned out to be his own mother! It was the Lord's turn to scratch his head. He couldn't go against his mother's wish.

*May Mary help us discover the face of Jesus,
Prince of Peace.*

*May she support and accompany us
in this New Year;*

*and may she obtain for us and for the whole world
the desired gift of peace! So be it!*

