

4 December 2011



Whenever we experience the bites of suffering, we raise our voices to God asking Him to “show His kindness and grant His salvation.” Such was also the prayer of Israel, especially in the long period of the Exile. But for such wonder to happen, the prophet Isaiah told them that they had to “make straight in the desert a highway for their Lord” (Is 40:3).

This same call to repentance and conversion was made by John the Baptist to the entire people of Israel when the time came for God to send them the promised Messiah. **This call of the “fiery prophet” spans the centuries and reaches us today, as urgent as ever. We, too, need God’s help and forgiveness. But in order to enjoy this, we have to do our share – we have to go back to Him.**

Let this be our main concern in these days and the special intention for which we offer the Eucharistic sacrifice.



Whenever man experiences the bites of suffering, he raises his voice to God asking Him to “show His kindness and grant salvation.” Such has always been the attitude and prayer of Israel, especially in the long period of exile and at other moments in their history when they were harassed by

aggressive neighbors. The prophet Isaiah reassured his own countrymen that their loving God was not insensitive to the cries of His repentant, suffering people. The Lord was about to “turn His face” to them in mercy and loving concern. He Himself, actually, would move toward His own people and take care of them,

especially the weak and the defenseless, as a shepherd does with his flock. (See Is 40:11.) The forgiving and consoling love of the Lord, who was going to “turn” toward His people would make them experience a rebirth after the long pangs of the Exile. But for this wonder to happen, they had to do their share – i.e., they had to “make straight in the desert a highway for their Lord” (Is 40:3). This same proclamation was made by John the Baptist to the whole people of Israel. Fulfilling the promises of old, the Lord had turned with love toward His people and was about to manifest His mercy in the most personal way – a way that would outshine all previous manifestations. People of all times may, occasionally, feel the Lord is “late in coming” – late in fulfilling His promise of salvation. St. Peter reminds us today in the second reading that God has not forgotten His promises, nor has He reneged on them. The implementation of His plan is “on course.” Rather than questioning God’s “punctuality,” we should see whether something may not be lacking in our preparation for the “great encounter.” There are important things that we have to do, things that we may have neglected altogether or done in an unsatisfactory way. “God is patient with you,” explains Peter, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (See second reading, v. 9.)

On God’s part, the promise stands: the promise of “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (v.13). But for that promise to become a reality, our cooperation is essential. And that cooperation has a realistic, demanding, and even harsh name: **repentance!** This means that the people are to turn toward God with a repentant heart, and move to encounter Him, treading the thorny path and steep road of a sincere **conversion**. This call to conversion spans the centuries and reaches us today as pertinent and demanding as ever. We, too, need God and His forgiveness. We, too, yearn to see the light of His loving countenance. And we can encounter Him and enjoy His presence only in a life of righteousness

in atonement for our sins. Then "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss." Thus, the Savior and the saved shall celebrate the encounter of their converging love.

WORD AND LIFE PUBLICATIONS



DON'T GO HOME AT ONCE AFTER TODAY'S MASS !

Join us in the very important task of electing two(2) new Administrators of our community. It won't be long ! We'll need just 30 – 45 minutes to complete this exercise. THANK YOU!



THE FCMM 22nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

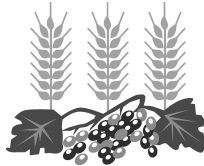
* Anniversary Dinner –Dance on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011, 6:00 p.m.** at The Church Hall. Tickets at \$ 25.00 are still available from the Administrators and the FCMM Office.

* Anniversary Mass on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011, @ 11:30 A.M.**



LAST CALL for BULLETIN ADVERTISERS and SPONSORS

New Edition will come out in January, 2012. Contact Mrs. Fe Elamparo (514- 738 1683) or the FCMM Office. Deadline : December 18, 2011.



ADVENT RECOLLECTION - COME AND DEEPEN YOUR PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS ! Our Advent Recollection this year will be held on **WEDNESDAY, December 7, – 6:00 p.m.** Let us be fed with the wild honey of joyful expectation, reminding us that the reign of God is already being experienced but not yet complete.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Before the Mass on Sunday, **December 18**, we will have the Celebration of Penance to prepare ourselves to encounter the Infant Jesus and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts. We hope you make it a point to come with your friends and family to take part in this spiritual exercise.



"many hands make light work" ...everyone is welcome to join in the festivities of decorating our worship space...even a few minutes of your precious time will be greatly appreciated.

WE ARE CALLING ON AS MANY VOLUNTEERS AS POSSIBLE TO HELP IN PREPARING OUR CHURCH FOR THE SEASON. THERE WILL BE A **BAYANIHAN - OPERATION LINIS SIMBAHAN** on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17** starting at 9:00 a.m. Please see Mr. Louie San Juan or Mr. Francis Pandy. **THANKS !**



Raise funds for the FCMM every time you shop!!

**GET GIFT CARDS FROM THE FCMM
IN TIME FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING !**

Last Day to put in your orders in time for your holiday needs:
DECEMBER 18, 2011

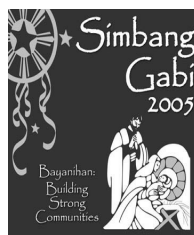
For more information and details,
come to the FCMM Office or see Ms. Marites Quirapas



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & DECOR NEEDED

Once again we are decorating the Church for the Christmas Season .We appeal to your generosity to donate for this need. Please complete the sponsorship form which is available at the FCMM Office. DEADLINE – December 18, 2011

(All Décor/Flower Donations are Tax Receipt eligible. THANK YOU !



Everyone is invited to assist at the **SIMBANGGABI 2011**, the central feature of the Filipino Christmas Celebration, to be held from December 15 –23, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. here at the FCMM.. All those interested to sponsor any of the 'Aguinaldo' Masses are requested to contact Mrs. Susie Alejandro, Mrs. Luming Silverio or the FCMM Office.

REMINDER: Aguinaldo Mass' sponsorship has a minimum donation of \$25.00 (Tax Receipt eligible).



STEWARDSHIP - "John was clothed in camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist." - Mark 1:6

St. John the Baptist's Advent message is, "Prepare, Prepare, Prepare." This is very different from the media's Christmas message of "Buy, Buy, Buy." At this time of the year the good steward is most definitely challenged to embrace the simplicity of St. John the Baptist more than the commercialism of the season.



**Your Offerings for the week ending
November 27, 2011 totaled
\$ 1,764.00**



Thank you for your continuing generosity !God bless you always!!!



The SANCTUARY LAMP this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **ALVIN and HILDA VELOSO**.



**Our regular Hospitality Corner will be back in the
January 8, 2012 Issue of the New Year. Thanks !**



Holiday Schedule



December 15 (THURSDAY) - December 23 (FRIDAY)

- 7:30 p.m.- **SIMBANGGABI '11**
- **No** 6:00 p.m. Masses on December 16, 21, and 23
- **PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA / STO. NIÑO** (7:00 p.m.) before the Simbanggabi Mass.

December 18 (SUNDAY)

- 11:30 a.m.- **4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS**
- 7: 30 p.m. - **4TH Night of the SIMBANGGABI**

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 and 6(WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY)

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

January 8 (SUNDAY)

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

January 15 (SUNDAY)

- 11:30 a.m. - **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



January 22 (SUNDAY)

- 11:30 a.m. - **STO NIÑO CELEBRATION OF THE PHILIPPINE CHURCH**

We welcome all our friends to worship with us this season. We pray for each other that we may strengthen the community by our presence and be

*nourished by the faith of the community. We need each other.
God calls us to be a people, his people together in community.*

