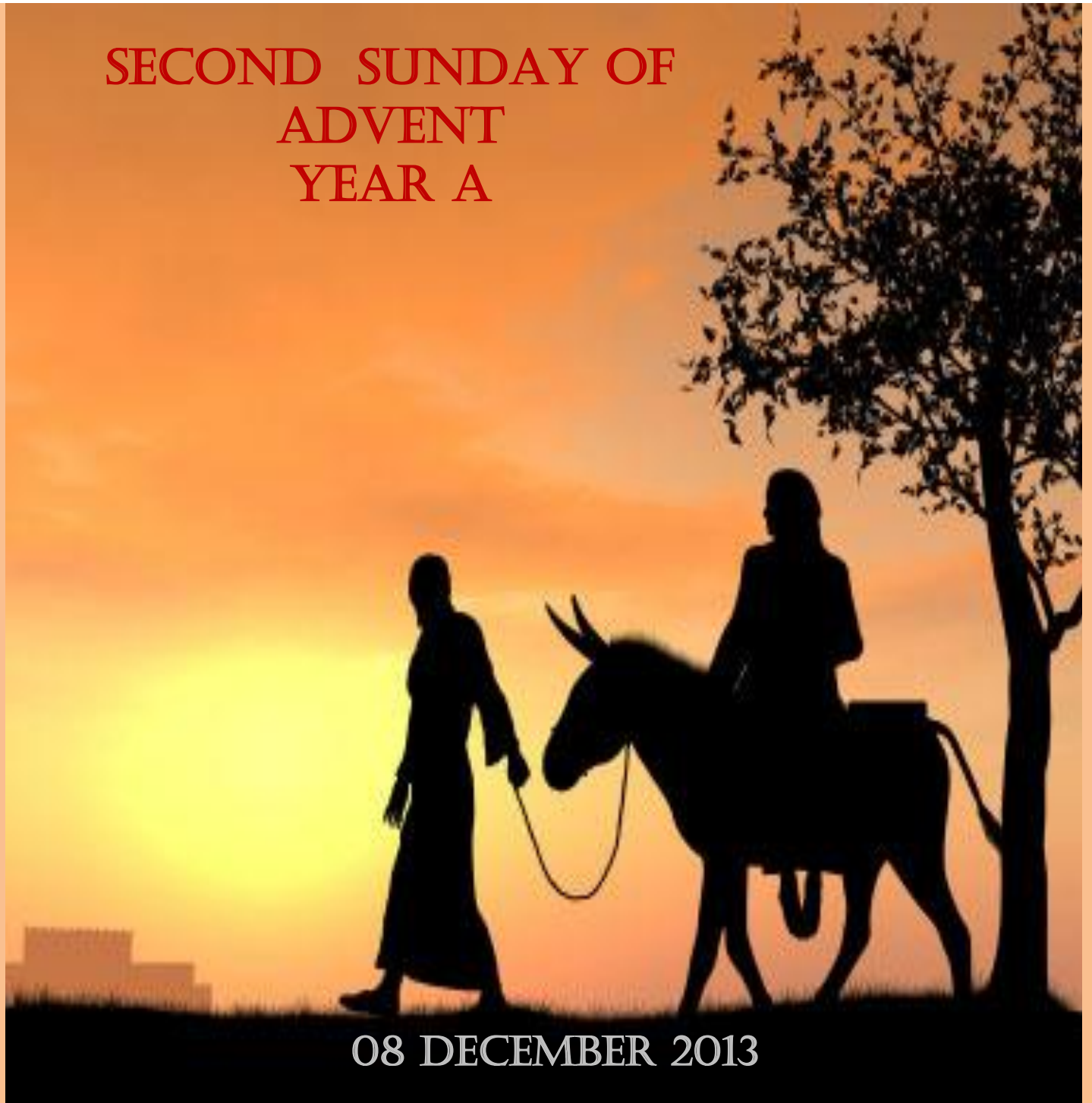


SECOND SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT  
YEAR A



08 DECEMBER 2013

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which His presence will bestow, for He is Lord for ever and ever. Amen*

**NOTRE-DAME-DES-PHILIPPINES CATHOLIC MISSION**  
MONTREAL, CANADA



As we progress in our spiritual pilgrimage toward the shrine of Jesus' Crib, on this Second Sunday of Advent, St. John the Baptist reminds us that we need to prepare ourselves adequately for our encounter with the Lord. We must prove the seriousness of our resolve to change for the better, each of us in our own situation.

St. Paul gives us some practical tips as to what this preparation can mean, as he invites us to live in perfect harmony with one another, accepting one another as Christ has accepted us. Only on these conditions shall we be able to glorify God with one voice and one heart as loving children should, particularly in this Advent season.



## Second Sunday of Advent

Advent is not primarily a penitential season, but it is a time for reflection and preparation. Today's readings provide material for reflection on the love of God and the encouragement to respond to that love by preparation. The prophet Isaiah portrays the ideal king to be sent into the world by God for our salvation. John the Baptist tells his contemporaries and all Christians, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" These words of John the Baptist are especially significant since Jesus will begin his public ministry with exactly the same words. Instead of "Kingdom of God," as found in Mark and Luke, Matthew uses "Kingdom of heaven." Matthew is writing for a community made up largely of Jewish Christians. Their profound reverence for the name of God led to finding alternatives such as "heaven." Isaiah describes the royal Messiah as coming into the world with the blessings of God's spirit: "a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord."

The Greek word behind "repent" is *metanoia*, which means literally a

"change of mind." But in the context of Jesus and John the Baptist, it calls for a life totally centered on God rather than on oneself or any other created reality. John the Baptist insists that this reformation of life must affect one's daily activities: "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance." The Church during Advent reflects on the importance of the birth of the Son of David, as did Isaiah. All Christians would do well also to prepare by responding to the demand of John the Baptist, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"





## REMEMBER EVERYTHING

*"In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea saying,  
'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!'*

*It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:*

*'A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.'"*

Matthew 3:1-3

MEMORY IS THE BASIS of both pain and rejoicing; we cannot have one without the other. Do not be too quick to "heal all of those memories," unless that means also feeling them deeply and taking them all into your salvation history. God calls us to suffer the whole of reality, to remember the good along with the bad. Perhaps that is the course of the journey toward new sight and new hope. Memory creates a readiness for salvation, an emptiness to receive love and a fullness to enjoy it. Strangely enough, it seems so much easier to remember the hurts, the failures and the rejections. In a seeming love of freedom God has allowed us to be very vulnerable to evil. And until we have learned how to see, evil comes to us easily and holds us in its grasp.

Yet only in an experience and a remembering of the good do we have the power to stand against death. As Baruch tells Jerusalem, you must "rejoice that you are remembered by God." In that remembrance we have new sight, and the evil can be absorbed and blotted out.

*Reflection* ♦ *Advent remembering has at least two sides; first, we must remember that we and the world we live in are imperfect. Then we recall God's saving power so that we can hope for a new world, both inner and outer, that will be transformed by the action of God's grace.*



*Come, Lord Jesus!*

*Daily Meditations for the Advent Season by Richard Rohr, O.F.M.*



## FEAST OF FAITH

### Watching for Christ's Coming

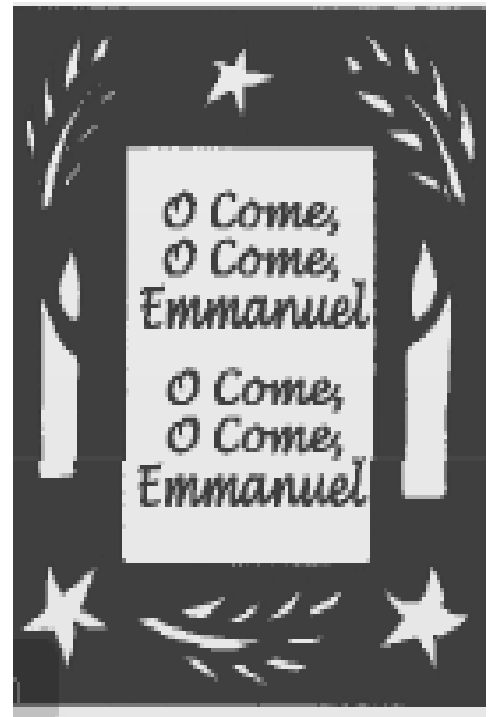
In the season of Advent, we look to the coming of Christ at the end of time, and we prepare ourselves to celebrate his first coming among us at Christmas. Remembrance of the past is combined with preparation for the future. Memory meets action.

In a certain sense, the Mass is an Advent prayer. At the Last Supper, Jesus did not tell his disciples, "Never forget what I did for you."

Instead, he said, "Do this in remembrance of me." He calls us to remember by *doing*, to combine memory with action. In the celebration of the Eucharist, remembering and doing become one.

Jesus is as present in our midst as he was in that upper room, breaking the bread and sharing the cup; but it is a new kind of presence, seen only with the eyes of faith. In the heavenly liturgy, there will be no need of sacraments, for there, "celebration is wholly communion and feast" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1136). Here, things are different. We have only glimpses and flashes of the beauty that is yet to be. And yet, in the liturgy, we truly participate in the heavenly liturgy. The Mass is our foretaste of the joys of heaven.

—Corinna Laughlin, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.





HAPPY FIESTA

Today we celebrate our PATRONAL FEAST  
OUR LADY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
-The Immaculate Conception-  
and  
THE 24<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
of the Canonical Installation of  
THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC MISSION OF MONTREAL



*Twenty-four years ago today, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent of the year 1989, the late Cardinal Paul Gregoire, then Archbishop of Montreal, canonically installed the Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal at the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Parish Church under the tutelage of Notre-Dame-des-Philippines. It was a historical event because with its installation came all the rights and privileges for Filipinos in the Western hemisphere. Today, we come with hearts full of gratitude and praise to the Lord for the gift that is the Filipino Church of Montreal where we continue to be nourished as God's children. We rejoice for all the many good things we have been given all throughout the years and as a community, continue to ask for the grace that we may prepare and be fit to receive in its fullest all the blessings and gifts of the Lord.*



WELCOME to all our friends, guests and benefactors joining us today !





2 New FCMM Administrators were chosen by acclamation last Sunday during an

Assembly of parishioners held after the Mass. They are **MR. FELIX CAMBALIZA, JR. and MRS. HELEN AGUILA DIWA.** As such, their names will be forwarded to the Archbishop for approval and will be serving a term of three years starting January 2014. **Thank you FELIX and HELEN for accepting the position !**



**CALLING ADULTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE FAITH !!!**

**Every Sunday @ 9:30 a.m., @ the Church Hall. The Evangelization and Bible Discovery Seminars are held in our Mission community. EVERYONE IS WELCOME !**



**Are you an adult thinking more deeply about God? About faith? About things that last? Are you an adult thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Are you an adult who considers yourself Catholic but has never been baptized? Or been confirmed? Or celebrated First**

**Communion? If so, call Sister Celia at 514- 387 5292 for more information or to find out about the RCIA process.**



**CASH, NON – PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS, PERSONAL HYGIENE SUPPLIES, SCHOOL SUPPLIES** are still being

**collected this month to be sent to the Archdiocese of Palo ( Leyte, Philippines )**



**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2013**

**\*Victimized Children.** That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need.

**\*Prepare the Savior's Coming.** That Christians, enlightened by the Word incarnate, may prepare humanity for the Savior's coming.



**ADVENT RECOLLECTION - COME AND DEEPEN YOUR PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

Our Advent Recollection this year will be held on **SATURDAY, December 14, @ 1:00 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.



**SIMBANGGABI 2013**

-We are now preparing for the **SIMBANGGABI 2013** to be held from **December 15 – 23, at 7:30 p.m.** here at the FCMM. All those who are 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 ).



**CHRISTMAS DÉCOR, FLOWERS and HELP NEEDED**

Once again we appeal to your generosity to donate the decorations needed for the Church

for the Christmas Season Please complete the Decor sponsorship form which is available at the FCMM Office. Thank you. **DEADLINE – December 15, 2013** ( All Donations are Tax Receipt eligible ). We will also need **MANPOWER** to prepare and spruce up the Church for the Christmas Season. **WE ARE CALLING ON AS MANY VOLUNTEERS AS POSSIBLE TO HELP on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th** starting at 9:00 a.m. **THANK YOU** in advance



**“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”** - Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. As we are immersed in the Holiday shopping season now might be a good time to evaluate what gifts do we give to God.



**Your Offerings for the week ending December 1r 24, 2013 totaled \$ 1,746.00**

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



- We join in the *Thanksgiving Intentions of* : **MERCY BAUTISTA and FAMILY, JUN ALEJANDRO, MARY JOYCE ANN RUIZ.**



- Please join in lifting up to the Lord the special intentions of: **LEANETTE REYES.**

- Your prayers are also humbly requested for all the sick and suffering members of our Mission community and their loved ones especially: **FR. FRANCISCO ALVAREZ pme, FR. ROGER BEGIN pme, FR. GERARD LOISELLE, pme, MSGR. ANDRE DESROCHES, SR. LUZ PADERANGA op, ALFREDO PADERANGA SR., FE PADERANGA, ANNIE MOJADO, ELECITA ARACENA, BALDOMERA AMBAYEC, JULIA PERLAS-TAN, JOSEFINA BANGALAN, DAWN DELA PAZ, JOSIE LIMLENGCO, CARMENCITA TRIVINIO, BERNARDINO FERNANDO, ANTONIO FOZ. May God bring them healing and peace.**

- Remember also all of our deceased relatives and friends, especially: **GLORIA CALUMPIANO, GERALD RIAMBON, PONCIANO, MARINA, VALENTINO, IMELDA & NARCISO SILVERIO, JOSE, ZOSIMA, DANIEL & DANILO BAUTISTA, GAUDENCIO & RUFINA BAYBADO, NENA MADIZ, BALBINA & ORLY VELASCO, VIRGINIA MANCE, ALL THE VICTIMS OF TYPHOON YOLANDA IN GUIUAN and TACLOBAN, ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY and those dying everyday in battles and calamities around the world. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.**

## MASS INTENTIONS

Do you have a deceased relative for whom you wish all the Grace of God; or perhaps a dear friend who could use a bit of divine assistance in their lives, or simply if you have reason to offer thanksgiving for a new-born son, daughter, God-child, niece, nephew or the like? Well the Sacrifice of the Mass contains within it all of the graces of God and all that man can do to worship Him. Stop by or call the FCMM office (514 – 387 5292) during normal business hours and ask how you can have a Mass offered for your intention.



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. - Anne Frank

## GOD'S DELAY

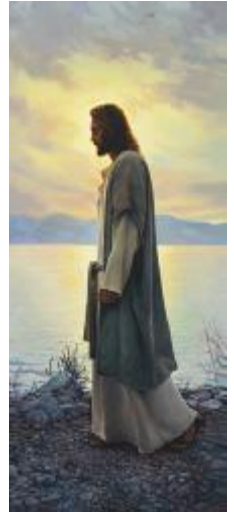
In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us,

*“Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?”*

The “delay” of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving everyone the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a “straight highway” for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co



## FCMM HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 14, 2013 (Saturday)

2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. –ADVENT RECOLLECTION

December 15 – December 23 (7:30 p.m.) –  
SIMBANGGABI '13

THEME: *SAIL ON ... The Filipino Faith*

- ❖ No 6:00 p.m. Masses on December 18 and 20
- ❖ PERPETUAL HELP / STO. NIÑO NOVENA  
( 7:00 p.m. before the Simbanggabi Mass)

December 22 (Sunday)

- ❖ 11:30 a.m.- 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS
- ❖ 7: 30 p.m. – 9<sup>TH</sup> Night of the SIMBANGGABI
- ❖ PENITENTIAL SERVICES BEFORE THE MASSES

December 24 (Tuesday) NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
8:00 p.m. – MIDNIGHT MASS

December 25 (Wednesday) NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
❖ 1:00 p.m. – CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

December 27 (Friday)  
❖ 6:00 p.m. – MASS

December 29 (Sunday) FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
❖ 11: 30 a.m.- MASS

December 31 (Tuesday)  
❖ 7:00 p.m. – NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL &  
THANKSGIVING MASS

January 1, 2014 (Wednesday) SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOD  
❖ 1:00 p.m. –NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

January 3 (Friday)  
❖ 6:00 p.m. – MASS

January 5 (Sunday) THE LORD'S EPIPHANY  
❖ 11: 30 a.m.- MASS

January 12 (Sunday) THE LORD'S BAPTISM  
❖ 11: 30 a.m.- MASS

January 19 (Sunday) FEAST OF SEÑOR STO. NIÑO  
❖ 11: 30 a.m.- MASS  
❖ 1: 30 P.M.- FELLOWSHIP and FIESTA  
CELEBRATION



