

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



01 DECEMBER 2013

*Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

**NOTRE-DAME-DES-PHILIPPINES CATHOLIC MISSION**

MONTREAL, CANADA



As we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent, we wish one another a spiritually fruitful New Year. It is unfortunate that many Catholics seem to give little importance to the liturgical year whose main purpose is to bring about our sanctification, which is the most important undertaking in our life.

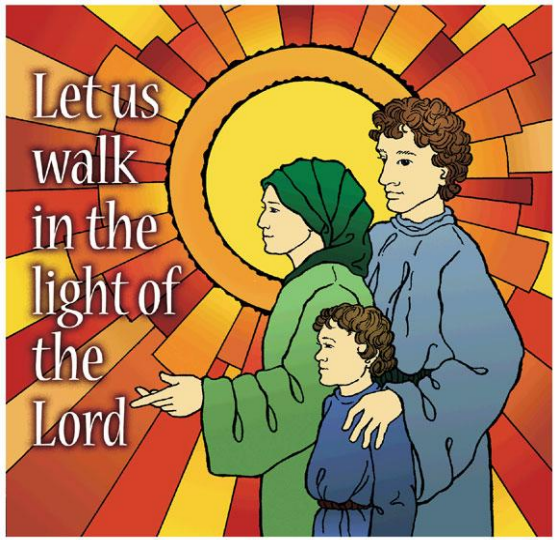
This Advent is, for all of us, an opportunity to rediscover the richness of this well-planned series of liturgical events, even as we start our remote preparation for Christmas. St. Paul's exhortation to get rid of the "deeds of darkness" and to clothe ourselves with the splendor of Christ's grace should motivate us to begin this holy season with a clear plan of action and the determination to carry it out faithfully. Let this be one of the main intentions for which we offer the Eucharist.



### GETTING READY

Today marks the beginning of another liturgical year. The tone of today's readings casts us in the role of students learning solemn lessons. The reading from Isaiah sets the stage, calling us up a mountain to receive the Lord's instruction. In this passage we study peace. Then Paul steps forth with sober admonitions. We have to wake up; the day is almost here. Live honorably in the light. Paul reminds us that we really do know the time in which we are living. Finally, Matthew presents Jesus the storyteller. Just imagine, Jesus tells us, what it was like in Noah's time. He paints a vivid picture of ordinary people living ordinary lives and ignoring the warnings that Noah heeded. Totally unconcerned, they were destroyed. How will it be any different for us? No one knows when the Lord will come. But we have been warned.

Perhaps we find such sobering scriptures unappealing and threatening. But within them there is promise. We are to live in the light with nothing to hide. We are to be ready. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co



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### Living God's Word

What will it mean for you to "walk in the light of the Lord" this Advent? Will it mean changing an aspect of your life that is darkened by sin, or noticing and alleviating some of the suffering in our world? Copyright © 2013, World Library



### TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.

—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury



## Jesus is the Reason

In today's world the Christmas season starts on the day after Thanksgiving and ends on December 25. For many of us this time is filled with baking, sending cards, choosing gifts, attending parties, and setting up a Christmas tree and decorations. Add to this our daily work schedules and the needs of our children and this time of the year can be very stressful. The Church puts a different emphasis on the next four weeks. This is Advent, the season of expectation, with scripture readings and prayers calling on us to prepare in our hearts and lives for the Lord's coming on Christmas Day. According to our heritage, we may already have Advent customs such as the lighting of candles on the Advent wreath, a Jesse tree, setting up a manger scene ready for the Christ child at Christmas, or special devotions. An Advent tradition from Germany called *Kristkindl* (meaning "Christ child") is suitable for families, small church groups, or even for individuals. The original custom was for the mother of the house to pass a bowl around the family circle containing rolled-up slips of paper with a family member's name on each one. Each would take one slip and carefully looked at the name so no one else could see it. For the rest of Advent the person named on the paper became the *Kristkindl* of the person who took the slip of paper, and he or she would do at least one good deed a day for them, but without them finding out who did it! Even young children could do this. It became a treasured way of preparing hearts to serve



Christ through serving other people. Honor Jesus in the person of your *Kristkindl*; pray for them, save money to send to a good cause in their name,

donate gifts to a shelter, do extra chores unasked, adopt a needy family.

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*"You . . . must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come."  
Matthew 24:44*



### "Hail Mary Full of Grace"

Most of the "Hail Mary" is taken directly from the Bible. These words are said by the archangel Gabriel. Gabriel tells Mary she has been chosen to be the Mother of the Savior,

Jesus Christ. This is a reason for rejoicing, for Christ takes on our humanity from Mary in order to save us. So we greet Mary with faith and thanksgiving.

Next Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, with Mary, we are all invited to praise and thank God for the gift of the FILIPINO CATHOLIC MISSION OF MONTREAL as it celebrates its 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canonical Installation. JOIN US at 11:30 a.m. for the Anniversary Mass. We hope you can come !

### 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.



**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 !

What every Catholic should know

**ABOUT**

**EVANGELIZATION**

**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

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 )



**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 and FLOWERS NEEDED**

Once again we are decorating the Church for the Christmas Season and we will need lights, several pots of Christmas Poinsettias and other decorations for the Altar and the Sanctuary. We appeal to your generosity to donate the potted flowers. 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 ).



**"For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."**

- Matthew 24:42

Preparations for the Christmas season remind us how much we all want to be generous. We all want to give good gifts to one another. Yet, often when it comes to giving back to God our response is, "Not yet!" We put off sharing our time, talent and treasure for another day. We say we will give when we have more time or more money. Yet, none of us knows when God will come and ask for an accounting of how we used the gifts entrusted to our care. The start of Advent reminds us not to put off our stewardship. The Lord is coming!



Your Offerings for the week ending November 24, 2013 totaled \$ 1,414.00

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





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## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Christ helps us to face the music,  
even when we don't like the tune.

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**IN ALL THINGS  
GIVE THANKS**

BABY LYNN ARACENA

OUR  
prayer  
CONCERNS



- We join in the *Thanksgiving Intentions of* : MICHAEL FRANCIS PANDY, JAKE JESPER SAMPANG-VALENCIA. THE TABAMO FAMILY,

- Please join in lifting up to the Lord the special intentions of: RUBEN REYES, MARIE KYM, DAISY MANANSALA.

- 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.

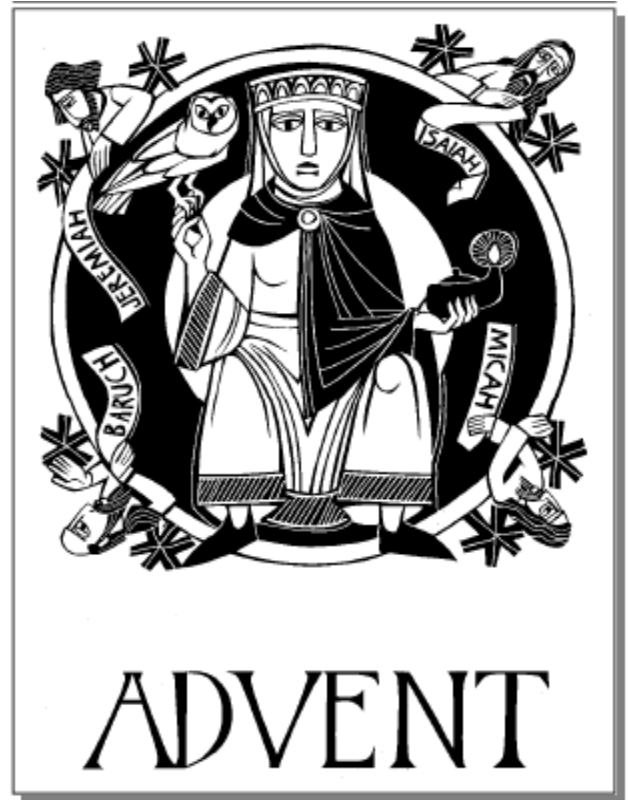
- Remember also all of our deceased relatives and friends, especially: CIRILO DEMA-ALA SR., AMPARO DEMA-ALA, SATURNINO QUIRAPAS SR., THE VICTIMS OF TYPHOON YOLANDA, ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY and those dying everyday in battles and calamities around the world. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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## 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.

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**A**spire for God's glory  
in everything you do.

**D**evote yourself to what is right  
and just.

**V**ow to be faithful to God,  
yourself, and others.

**E**nrich life with direction,  
meaning, and purpose.

**N**otice the 'signs of the times'  
in the events of daily living.

**T**eam up with others to make  
Christ known, loved, and  
served by all.