

DECEMBER 26, 2010
 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
 OF JESUS, MARY, and JOSEPH

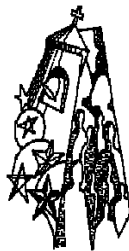


Our family is our "little world" – the place where we feel at home. It is the environment where we first feel loved and where we learn to love and care.

Unfortunately, in our days, in far too many cases, the dream of a happy and faithful family has been shattered by selfishness, jealousy, pride, irresponsibility.

Our celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family re-proposes to all of us both the attractiveness of the dream of a united and happy family and the means to make it a reality by living out the message of God's Word.

May the example of Mary Most Holy and Joseph and the teaching of St. Paul be our inspiration in making our families what we dream of and what God wants them to be.



Schedule

December 31(Fri.)-NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL AND MASS- 8:00 P.M.
 January 1, 2011 (Sat.)-SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
 ❖ NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS - 12 :30 NOON



YEAR 2011 ENVELOPES are now available for pick-up after each Mass. Please contact Mr. Mel Villanueva, Mr. Raymundo Foz or the FCMM Office for inquiries.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

❖ **YOU HAVE UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST TO GIVE YOUR DONATIONS WHICH YOU WISH TO BE CREDITED TO THE TAXATION YEAR 2010,**



FEAST OF THE STO. NIÑO – A Special Celebration of the Feast of the Sto. Niño will be held on Sunday, January, 16, 2011 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.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **FOR PERSONAL INTENTIONS** offered by **Alvin and Hilda Veloso.**



REDISCOVERING THE TREASURE OF THE FAMILY



The Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was an ordinary village family. Its members knew what it means to live by the sweat of their brow. They knew the bitter taste of poverty, rejection, misunderstanding, persecution, and even exile But they **found the strength to endure all those difficulties in the union and solidarity that bound them together.** "Clothed with heartfelt mercy, kindness, humility, meekness and patience" (see *Col 3:12*), in their daily lives, they practised all the virtues which St. Paul urges all families to treasure and live by. In other words, the family of Nazareth was **characterized by a sincere and selfless LOVE.** But that love for one another would not have lasted long, if it had not been **rooted in their love for God.** It was God who was the center of everything in that family. **God was their absolute priority;** their "Number One." They lived in His presence, in total trust, availability and hope. These are

some of the features which made the "ordinary" Family of Nazareth *extraordinary*. This is what makes it the object of our admiration, but also of a certain envy because many of our families are so different from such a "model." **Many of our families, in fact, are no longer a haven of peace but a constant battlefield.** Recriminations, bitterness, jealousy and unfaithfulness have all but shattered the unity and solidarity that used to characterize them.

In most cases the cause of such a disaster is the fact that God has been shut out of those families. Many times He has not even been invited to the wedding ceremony. Civil marriages and "live-ins" abound. Praying together seems no longer fashionable in many families nowadays. This is attributed to the many things to be done, conflict of schedules and priorities. The sad reality is the shallowness of the faith in most of its members. There are, of course, happy exceptions of parents who, every evening, gather their children for some moments of reflection on the Word of God, shared prayer or recitation of the Rosary and mutual reconciliation if during the day there have been some "scratches" A family that renews its covenant with the Lord every day will have no time for endless bickering, jealousy and harsh manners on the part of the parents, or a rebellious attitude on the part of the children. **A family where God is honored and loved is a family at peace. The family that prays together is a "little Church."** It is when the family gathers together in prayer that both parents and the children see themselves under the common fatherly authority of God.

Every family should have its proper values, respect for the aged, tenderness for the children. It should be one in plan and action, all under God, the Father of all. Such was the Holy Family of Nazareth. And the yearly celebration of its feast is not just a well-deserved tribute paid to them, but also an encouragement to make our families what the Holy Family was – a haven of peace and love for God and one another; a "holy family."

-Jess P. Balon



Soon we will wish each other a "Happy New Year." we hope that as we say happy, we mean it, we hope that as we say happy, we understand it, we hope that as we say happy, we can also find ways to make our own lives and those of others happier in the coming year.

The Spirit within us and within our community members should be the true source of the happiness we wish to others today and of the happiness we hope for in our own lives this coming year and always.

THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC MISSION OF MONTREAL WISHES YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES THE BLESSINGS OF A NEW YEAR. MAY A RENEWED AND LASTING BEGINNING TO PEACE IN THE WORLD AND IN OUR COMMUNITY BE GOD'S BLESSING AND OUR WORK.





THE MOTHERHOOD OF MARY !



Because of Mary's motherhood, we are no longer slaves, but children and heirs of almighty God.

Because of Mary's motherhood, we see and hear a new presence of God and are drawn, like the shepherds in the gospel to give glory and praise to God.

Because of Mary's motherhood we enjoy an incarnated, "earthly" presence of God among us; God's Son takes on humanity and becomes *one of us*.

Because of Mary's motherhood, the light of God's face shines on all people in and through the presence of Jesus.

Because of Mary's motherhood, the lowly (the shepherd in the gospel, but anyone displaced, untitled, outranked, unknown, etc.) hear and see first. Because of Mary's motherhood, we have a powerful, loving and solicitous intercessor before God. Because of Mary's motherhood, her privilege as an immaculate conception and glorious assumption into heaven beckon us home.

These blessings are the *good news!* To realize them in our lives, we need to reflect on them in our own hearts and say the same *yes* to God as Mary.



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,

MOTHER OF GOD

We will celebrate this feast at the 12:30 noon Mass on Saturday, January 1st



"Hail, holy Mother! The Child to whom you gave birth is the King of heaven and earth for ever".

With this ancient greeting, on the eighth day of the Octave of Christmas and the first of the year 2011, the Church greets the Blessed Virgin Mary, invoking her as Mother of God. In her, the eternal Son of the Father took our very flesh and through Her, became "son of David and son of Abraham".

Thus Mary is his true Mother: the Theotokos, Mother of God!

If Jesus is Life, Mary is the Mother of Life.

If Jesus is Hope, Mary is the Mother of Hope.

If Jesus is Peace, Mary is the Mother of Peace, Mother of the Prince of Peace.

Entering the new year, let us ask this holy Mother to bless us.

Let us ask Her to give us Jesus, our full Blessing, in whom the Father blessed all history once and for all, making it become the history of salvation.

Hail, holy Mother! The World Day of Peace is placed under your motherly gaze. May we reflect on peace in this climate of widespread anxiety on account of tragic events that have shaken the world. But although it may seem humanly difficult to look to the future with optimism, allow us not to give in to the temptation and to despair. On the contrary, may we work for peace courageously, certain that evil will not prevail.

The light and hope for this commitment come to us from Christ.

The Child born in Bethlehem is the eternal Word of the Father who became flesh for our salvation, he is "God-with-us", who brings with him the secret of true peace. He is the Prince of Peace.

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

May she support and accompany us in this New Year;

may she obtain for us and for the whole world the desired gift of peace!

So be it!

