



**MABUHAY ! BIENVENUE !  
WELCOME !**  
to The  
**NOTRE-DAME-  
DES-PHILIPPINES  
CATHOLIC  
MISSION**

**Montreal, Canada**  
*8500 blvd. St. Laurent, Montreal,  
Quebec*  
**CANADA H2P 2M8**  
**TEL : (514) 387- 5292**  
**FAX: (514) 514-389-9037**  
**www.filipinocatholic.net**

Parish Priest:  
**Rev.Fr. Francisco Alvarez, PME**  
**frankalv13@yahoo.ca**

## **MISSION - VISION**

We envision a welcoming Mission-driven community, sustained by the abiding faith in God and Christ-like love of fellowmen, where Filipino cultural and religious traditions are lived and practiced with dignity; where diversity of gifts and talents is embraced, strengthened by the commitment and relationship we build- nourished by the Eucharist, prayer, education and apostolic services.

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Wednesday – Sunday  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Sunday - 11: 30 a.m.

*(Pilipino Mass on the last Sunday  
of the month )*

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

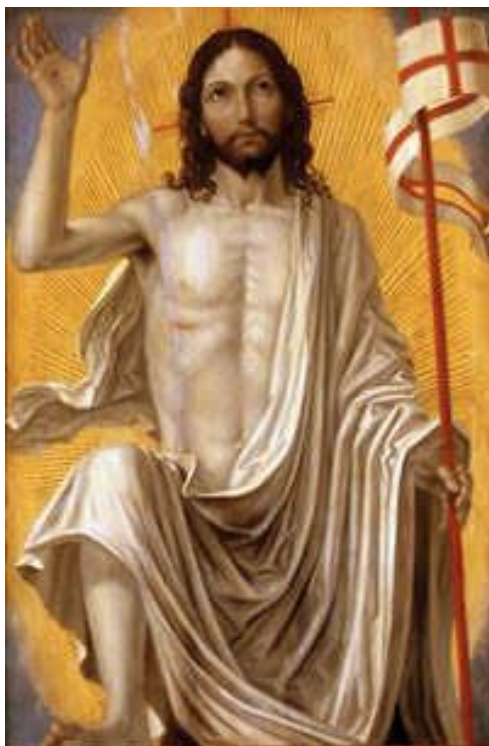
*(Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help  
recited before the Mass)*

Friday - 6:00 p.m.

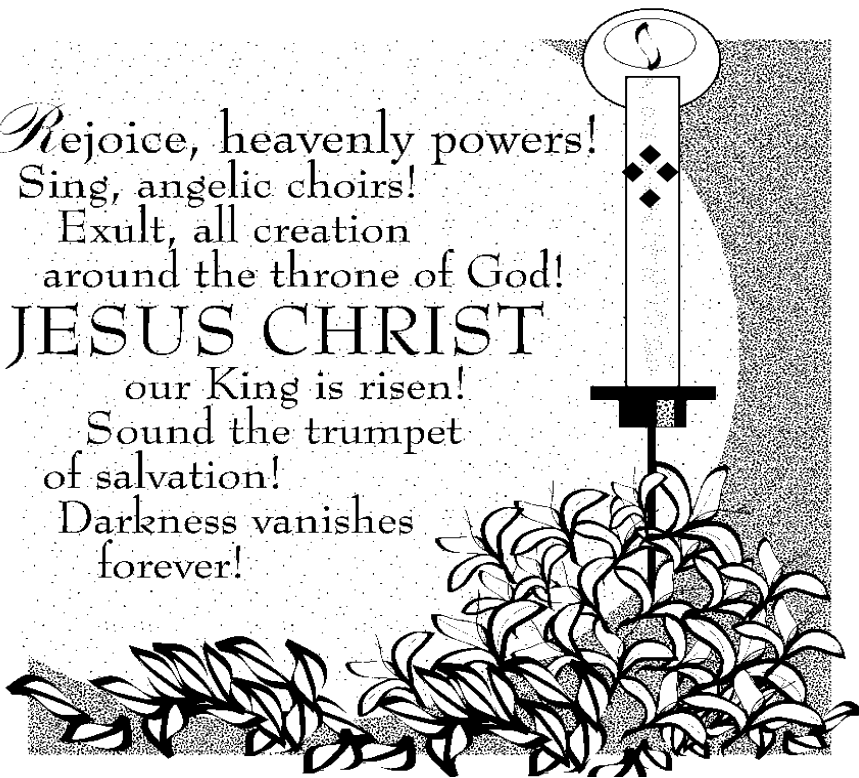
*(Novena to the Holy Child – Señor Sto. Niño  
recited before the Mass)*

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
every First and Third Friday of the month  
before the Mass.

MISSION CATHOLIQUE NOTRE-DAME DES PHILIPPINES CATHOLIC MISSION  
**05 APRIL 2015**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**



Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, angelic choirs!  
Exult, all creation  
around the throne of God!  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
our King is risen!  
Sound the trumpet  
of salvation!  
Darkness vanishes  
forever!



## New Life for Christ, New Life for All !

The Resurrection is, first of all, an event that concerns *Jesus Christ*.

It is his personal triumph over death, and the vindication of the truth of his teaching. He had spoken about it before it happened. The fulfillment of that prophecy underscores the power of Christ and the truthfulness of his message. He *experienced his physical resurrection in all its transforming vitality, just as he had experienced the destructive power of sin in his agony and death.*

This is what the "Paschal Mystery" is all about. The Resurrection reveals this with a glorious clarity perceived through the eyes of faith. But whatever happened to Christ has also a cosmic resonance. It influences and affects positively the whole universe, but especially mankind. *At the Incarnation, the Son of God united himself in a permanent way to every human being with a solidarity that makes him share in all the miseries of every individual (including the deadly consequences of sin), and makes every human being a sharer in Christ's dignity, holiness, and glory.*

This is why Jesus' coming out of the tomb alive, transformed, immortal . . . concerns us, too. It concerns all human beings. *His Resurrection is also mankind's resurrection because it marks mankind's liberation from the oppression of sin.* Christ's shattering the shackles of death (manifested through the breaking of the seals of his grave) is like the cracking of the shell of a seed which allows the sprout to burst forth with all the freshness of the new life it carries. That sprout is Christ, but is also all mankind. It is also each one of us. On Easter morning *a new world dawned, a new humanity rose from the slavery of sin and death, in Jesus, through him and with him. (See Col 2:12-13.)*

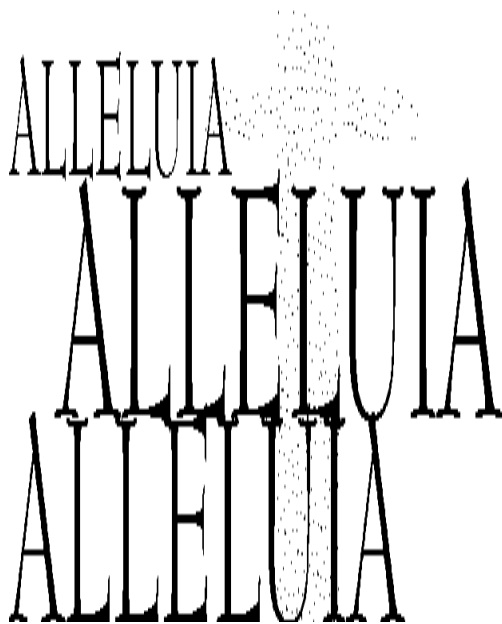
No human expression can exhaust the transforming greatness of this mystery.

The Church has been proclaiming it during her 20 centuries of existence through her liturgy, her creeds, and her life. She will continue to do so until the liberating power of the Resurrection will have reached its full manifestation in the Kingdom of heaven. There are a billion and one reasons for celebrating, then, as we commemorate, re-live and rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus.

*It is our resurrection, too. But we are challenged to prove it by living a new life. We have to get rid of the "old yeast" of corruption and wickedness, and live a life characterized by sincerity and truth. (See 1 Cor 5:7-8.) We have to set our hearts "on what pertains to higher realms" (Col 3:1). Then will our actions ring the joyous notes of the Easter alleluia, and we shall become a living "proof" of Christ's Resurrection.*

(WORD AND LIFE PUBLICATIONS)

May God bless you with Easter joy during this season of new life and new hearts!



Again our community has joyfully and competently celebrated the beautiful liturgical rituals of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Through the generous efforts and talents of many people we can say that we have faithfully worshipped, prayed, and journeyed to Easter. We are the Community of Our Lady of the Philippines Catholic Mission of Montreal. May we truly be an Easter people!

Emboldened by our experience of sharing in Jesus Christ's Resurrection, let us go forth and share our Easter Faith. For fifty days we will live the Easter Season.

Let us live it fully.

We know that Christ is in our hearts. Now is the time to let Christ shine before us---for all to see !





## SALUBONG

One of the Easter practices unique to the Philippines and other countries influenced by Spanish conquistadores is the celebration of the **salubong**. The word **salubong** refers to the act of meeting someone who is arriving. As the word connotes, the celebration is a reenactment of the first meeting of Christ and his mother, Mary.

This is not written in the Bible, but the Filipinos' natural affinity to their mothers tell them that if there is someone to whom Christ will show himself first after his resurrection, it must be to his mother who loved him so much. This explanation is quite

reasonable. St. Ignatius himself seems to have the same logic in his *Spiritual Exercises* (SpEx) when he highlighted this event by making it first among the contemplations of the Fourth week of the Exercises. He writes, "rising again, he appeared in body and soul to his Blessed Mother" (SpEx [219]). He explained that, "Although this is not stated in Scripture, still it is considered as understood by the statement that he appeared to many others." (SpEx [299]).

Participating therefore in the **salubong**, is an actual contemplation of the consoling effect of Christ's Resurrection. And it is true, the grace that people get from this celebration is nothing but exuding joy - perhaps sharing the same joy that Mary had experienced when Christ appeared to him. In this celebration, one feels and experiences that Jesus is indeed alive and he is in our midst!

"The celebration starts at dawn just before sunrise, with two different processions that start at different points. The first one consists of the icon of the risen Christ carried by men while the second consist of the Blessed Virgin Mary (covered with a black veil to denote her mourning) carried by women.

Precisely at first light of sunrise, the two processions meet at the church courtyard from different routes. At the center of the courtyard, the icon of Jesus is faced with the icon of Mary under a canopy (Pallo). At this point, the ceremony of the meeting begins with the choir singing alleluias as Mary approaches Jesus. Under the canopy, an angel descends on top of the head of Mary and lifts the black veil from her, exposing a happy mother who is seeing her son.

Uproar of Jubilations is heard from the crowd and confetti fills the air and the choirs would hail the Risen Christ and sing songs of joy. Then the "Dawn Mass" is said to the crowd at the courtyard. At the end of the mass, various activities, like a fiesta begins, to celebrate the victory of our resurrection.



### EASTER IS THE GIFT

**Easter is the gift of HOPE. Easter is the gift of PEACE.**

**Easter is the gift of LOVE.**

**Let us rejoice in Him who gives them all.**

**May God bless you at Easter and keep you all year through.**

**May God give you all the faith it takes to make your dreams come true. May his love and wisdom always help to guide you on your way. May His light shine down upon you now, to bless your Easter Day.**

