

# The Baptism of the Lord



12 January 2014  
NOTRE-DAME-DES-PHILIPPINES CATHOLIC MISSION  
Montreal, Canada

## Son of the Father and Our Brother

*Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River is the second "epiphany," the second manifestation of his identity and mission. The Father's voice reveals that Jesus is the "Son/Servant," the man filled with the Spirit of the Lord, sent to "establish justice on the earth."*

*His mission will also entail taking upon himself the weight of mankind's sinfulness, as foretold in the last of the Servant's Songs.*

*Jesus' baptism reminds us of our own baptism when the Father pronounced over us the most splendid sentence we will ever hear: "You are my beloved son/daughter!"*

*It is this unparalleled dignity which entitles us to participate in the Eucharist.*

*Let us do so with gratitude and love.*





*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, Make straight the way of the Lord." One mightier than I is coming after me." "I have baptized you with water, He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ~ John 1:23,26*

## WHO'S IN? WHO'S OUT?



The book of Leviticus in the Old Testament contains a long list of rules for Jewish people to become "pure" and to maintain that purity. This purity has nothing to do with simple cleanliness. The rituals to ensure purity guaranteed a worthiness to be in contact with sacred things. The code for the priests who officiated in the temple ceremonies required the highest degree of purity. The Pharisees would only eat with others who were keeping those strict laws of purity. Social exclusion was the Jewish norm. The elite mixed only with the elite and the pure with the pure. Some Jews, the Essenes, took themselves off to a desert

settlement to be even more pure and exclusive. So, along comes John the Baptist. He walks around in animal skins, eats grasshoppers, and doesn't seem to care all that much about the laws of Moses. He knows the Messiah, the Savior, is at hand and he says that *all* must repent and be baptized—men and women alike, and regardless of social status. No wonder the Pharisees, Sadducees, and other elite people are shocked and enraged. Jesus appears and insists on being baptized, just like everybody else in the crowd attracted by John. John reluctantly agrees, knowing that Jesus is the expected Savior. Jesus breaks even more rules: he heals on the Sabbath, forgives sins, and invites all sorts of people to his table. He shares meals with tax collectors and prostitutes, as well as respectable, even wealthy, citizens. Is it any wonder that people were shocked? Jesus was a scandal. He was inclusive of all people without any limits or preconditions whatsoever. Jesus not only loved them, he made them feel wanted, cared for, and included. Should we not do the same? Remember, Jesus did say to follow him.

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### From Bethlehem to Jordan

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the last day of the Christmas season. At daily prayer this day, the Orthodox churches pray:

*Let us assemble in spirit, O faithful,  
at the streams of the Jordan  
that we might behold a great and mighty wonder.  
We shall see the Creator of all made manifest  
as he comes to be baptized.  
Let us pass, O faithful,  
from Bethlehem to Jordan.  
For behold, the Light which came into the darkness  
there begins to overcome the night.*

Find out the date of your baptism. Ask a relative, or write to the parish that baptized you. Write the date on the new calendar. Celebrate the anniversary this year by participating in the Eucharist. Spend some time reflecting on your Christian mission — your part in spreading God's love.

When Jesus was baptized, he came out of the water and heard a heavenly voice say, "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased." Listen for this voice today whenever you "come out of the water" — the shower, the snow or rain, the swimming pool, the sudsy kitchen sink. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever! Alleluia! Amen!

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*Heavenly Father you created each of us out of love. By drawing us to yourself in baptism, you restore us to your grace and heal the divisions within the community of your body, granting us salvation, which in turn glorifies your name.*

*Father, by our sharing and learning may we come to know our duty to you as Christian parents in raising our children to serve you in joy and praise you in the midst of the Body of Christ, the Church. Your gift of salvation in baptism is our hope of resurrection in Christ. We ask you to keep us faithful to our call as your sons and daughters. May our lives glorify you always and make us worthy heirs of your promise of eternal life. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all salvation. Amen.*



The feast we observe today, the Baptism of the Lord, also marks the end of the Christmas season.

And now that the star-dust is settling as this season draws to a close... We would like to reiterate our word of thanks to all who gave so generously to the Church at the Christmas collections and in the many gifts received at the rectory during Christmas time.

The generosity and thoughtfulness of so many is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for thinking of the FCMM and the priests and staff who work here!



## TAKE NOTE:

This Sunday honoring the Lord's Baptism provides the opportunity to consider a question of importance to parents and parents-to-be:

### HOW SOON AFTER BIRTH SHOULD A BABY BE BAPTIZED?

The practice of the Church is indicated in the *Code of Canon Law* where it states that "parents are obliged to see to it that infants are baptized within the first weeks after birth." (CIC, 867). An explanation for this practice can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth." (CCC, 1250) At baptism, a child receives the "priceless" gift of having Original Sin removed, and thus becoming a child of God and a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church.



**With such great things in store for the baptized, you can see why the Church encourages infants to be baptized sooner rather than later.**



### THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2014

**Universal:** That all may promote authentic economic development that respects the dignity of all peoples.

**For Evangelization:** That Christians of diverse denominations may walk toward the unity desired by Christ.





**ONCE AGAIN... THANK YOU !!!**



To all who made the FCMM's celebration of ADVENT and CHRISTMAS 2013 a big success...



We want to thank all who made our Advent and Christmas Masses so



beautiful. Thank you to our FCMM Choirs and their Directors, the St. Martha's Club, the Lectors, the Greeters and Ushers, the Collectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Sacristans.

Thank you also for all that you do during the year to make our Liturgies so meaningful.



Special thanks to our volunteer Cleaners and Decorators who enhance our worship environment; VERY SPECIAL THANKS to Louie San Juan for the outdoor decorations and the 'Belen'.



Thank you to Father Frank, Sr. Luz, and Sr. Celia ; you all are a blessing to our FCMM Community. Thank you too, to all visiting clergy and choirs for sharing

the Season with us. A big Thank You of course, is due to all our Different Ministries and Church Organizations, the SIMBANGGABI Mass Sponsors and Offerors, Food Donors, the Flower and Decoration Donors.

We hope that everyone will have a **Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year !**



When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,

**THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS:**

*To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,*

*To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations,*

*To bring peace among others,*

*To make music in the heart.*

(Howard Thurman)



**SEÑOR STO. NIÑO**



**A Special Celebration of the Feast of the Sto. Niño will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2014 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. Luming Silverio, Mrs. Susie Alejandro, or the FCMM Office. A pot-luck reception and Fiesta Filipino Program will follow after at the Church Basement. Please contact Ms. Teresa Ambayec for details of the Food Assignments.**



The challenge of caring for this Church belongs to each one of us! Members of the FCMM are the "stewards" of our parish, our faith community. Christian stewards gratefully receive God's gifts, cherish and tend to them responsibly, share them justly and lovingly with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

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



**YEAR 2014 ENVELOPES** are still available for pick-up after each Mass. Please contact Mr. Pedro Diaz, Jr. , Mr. Mel Villanueva or the FCMM Office.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:**

- \*Please discard your remaining 2013 envelopes.
- \*You have to fill up the necessary information (Name & Address) when using your new envelopes.



**WHAT IS A REASONABLE WEEKLY DONATION TO MY PARISH?**

One suggestion that we make is to consider donating the equivalent of your "First Hour of Work" each week to the Lord.



# RCIA

(RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

sessions will be conducted by our DRE,  
Sr. Celia Piala, op. Anyone interested in  
completing their sacraments of initiation ~  
Baptism, Confirmation or  
Eucharist ~ is welcome to join us. If you have  
questions, please come to the FCMM Office or  
contact Sr. Celia @

[mariaceliamagas@yahoo.ca](mailto:mariaceliamagas@yahoo.ca)

**BEFORE FEBRUARY 16**



If you are Catholic, older than high  
school and have been thinking about  
investigating how to receive your  
Confirmation, you've found it! Sessions will be  
held by Sr. Celia Piala, op soon.

New folks are welcome at any time... but NOW  
is a GREAT time to start with the formation  
process. Call Sr. Celia at the FCMM Office  
(514) 387-5292 or

[mariaceliamagas@yahoo.ca](mailto:mariaceliamagas@yahoo.ca)  
for more details

**BEFORE FEBRUARY 16**



We need to be reminded that we must live our  
own lives with the humility of the servant that we  
follow. We should keep the prayer of St. Francis  
of Assisi in our hearts, striving to become  
instruments of His peace and love.



## REFLECTIONS

1. Love is always on a mission.  
God equips us for our mission by first  
imbuing us with His life and love.  
Our Baptism brings with it a mission to love.
2. If we, the baptized, fully unleashed  
the grace of the Sacrament,  
the darkness of the world would not be  
able to bear it.
3. Baptism accomplishes what  
circumcision merely signified.  
We are ushered into God's divine Sonship!



## CALL to the FCMM MINISTRIES-

This year, you might want to  
be a part of the FCMM  
Service Ministries; this means  
actively involving in the  
different apostolic endeavors  
in the Filipino Mission:  
WORSHIP, EDUCATION, and  
other SERVICES. We would  
gladly have you with us in the  
service of our Lord through  
various means- *singing, altar  
serving, proclaiming the Word, church  
maintenance, leading children and youth,  
liturgy preparations, communications, etc.etc.*

- You are most welcome to join us. Please feel  
free to contact any of the Pastoral Council  
members or the FCMM Office for information  
regarding the specific apostolate of our  
ministries. **HALINA at SAMA-SAMA NATING**

**PAGLINGKURAN ANG PANGINOON**

**DITO SA FCMM !!!**



## BAPTISM

Baptism is a life-long  
commitment to holiness, not  
just a family tradition that is  
given to children at a  
certain age. It is a  
commissioning to ministry, to  
do the work of God.





• We join in the  
**Thanksgiving Intentions** of:  
**RODEL & VANESSA MANGUABT-SIGUE, COLLIN-MICHAEL**

**ANTONIO, DIVINA & RABI JALEA, VINCENT MASI, JOSEPH ANDRE CASTILLO, THE PERIODICA FAMILY, OLIVER MARTINEZ, JEANETTE GALAURA, CYNTHIA DENOUDEN, EUSEBIO AMBAYEC, GLICK JALEA, MYNIA & DELIA PENARANDA, REY LICERIO and FAMILY, JULIE & DANTE TABAMO, BOBBY, CHERRY and CHRISTOPHER PERLAS, THE KARDOS FAMILY.**



• Please join in lifting up the **special intentions** of:  
**JAMES OLIVER MARTINEZ**  
• Your prayers are 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, SR. LUZ PADERANGA op, MSGR. ANDRE DESROCHES, ALFREDO PADERANGA SR., ANNIE MOJADO, ELECITA ARACENA, BALDOMERA AMBAYEC, JULIA PERLAS-TAN, JOSEFINA BANGALAN, DAWN DELA PAZ, JOSIE LIMLENGCO, CARMENCITA TRIVINIO, BERNARDINO FERNANDO, ANTONIO FOZ, VICENTE TRIVINIO** May God bring them healing and peace.

• Remember also all of our **deceased relatives and friends**, especially:  
**JUANA TADEO, WILLIAM, MOMMY OLYMP, LUNING GERONIMO, AURELIO ELVAMBUENAM FELIX ELVAMBUENA, FELICISIMA ELVAMBUENA, DONATA & FELIPE SANCHEZ, ZENaida ARAZA, ALBERTO MEDINA, CELIA RDRIGUEZ, JULITA, SOLEDAD & CONCEPCION VILLROSA, JULIA & HERMELO VILLAROSA, HELEN ALEONAR, CRISPEN MAGNO, ANTONIO ALLANA, MARCIANO PENARANDA, CLARA SEPTEMO, JULITA GABA, LILY CANDELARIA, VIVINA SUE-PING ROMANA PLASTINA, 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.



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this month is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **MERCY PADUA.**



**From The Editor**

**HELP KEEP OUR HOSPITALITY CORNER CURRENT**

As we begin a New Year, it is imperative to up-date the bulletin's hospitality corner. Please contact the FCMM Office or the Editor if you would want to put a name on our prayer list. (E-mail address: [jhnaracena@gmail.com](mailto:jhnaracena@gmail.com))



Last Advent and during the Christmas Season, our Church Environment was beautifully enhanced by flowers, lights and other Christmas decorations. These came from the generosity of your hearts. We wish to acknowledge our donors and we ask you to pray for their intentions.



**AS THANKSGIVING OFFERED BY :**

**RAQUEL DUHAYLUNGSOD  
MRS. NATALIE PELAUSA  
LINA EUSEBIO  
MR. & MRS. RUDY and CRISTY BAUTISTA  
EFREN & ZENY OLAES and FAMILY  
THE APELO and BARRIGA FAMILIES  
RUTH DEMA-ALA  
JOHN KORDI  
THE DOMINGO-HIDALGO FAMILY  
MT. & MRS. FERNANDO GARCIA  
THE ESTOQUE FAMILY  
BERT YASIS and FAMILY  
THE MENTES FAMILY  
WILLIE QUIRAPAS and FAMILY  
THE TOLENTINO FAMILY  
MR. & MRS. NARCISO MEJIA  
JOHN NICHOLAS MEJIA  
LEO & CYNTHIA PACHEO  
CARING, BUTCH, BABY LYNN and LAIZA  
MEL & ELSA VILLANUEVA and FAMILY  
LINDA CALDITO  
JOEPHINE MOYO**



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**FUCTUOSA (ROSA) VELASQUEZ  
BENECIO FEDERIZO,  
ADORACION PADUA  
FELIX CAMBALIZA SR.  
EDUARDO CAMBALIZA  
ROSALINA BIGCAS  
EVELYN REY  
ABRAHAM DATLAG  
MARCOS & LIBRADA BANAWA  
FRANCISCO CARANDANG  
BONIFACIO & DAMASA GUILLERMO  
ALL SOULS IN PURGATORY**



**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.

