

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 5, 2014



*"Father, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star.
Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith."*

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



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. . . . Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning toward the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany show that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs," and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (are made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 528)



The Epiphany of The Lord

If the frantic pace of the Christmas season has dulled your spiritual instincts, try meditating on the Magi. They were completely caught up with looking for Jesus. They weren't even Jewish, but they pored over the Scriptures to find out where He would be born. They didn't have cars or maps, so to get to Bethlehem, they rode camels and navigated by the light of a star. After traveling thousands of miles, their first thought was not to find a good place to rest. They wanted to give their gifts to the newborn king right away!

Perhaps the enthusiasm of these Wise Men can give us a jump start today. Before attending Mass, we can reflect on the fact that we too are going to see Jesus. Unlike the wise men, however, most of us will only have to travel a short distance to reach Him, and we'll meet with few hardships along the way—usually nothing worse than traffic tie-ups or rowdy children!

As you enter your church today, think about what a privilege it is to come to Mass. The Wise Men saw Jesus face-to-face—but through the miracle of the Eucharist, He comes to live inside of us! So many people are searching for God right now, and whether they know it or not, they're looking for just what you have: "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it" (Matthew 13:17).

After you receive Communion, thank God for making you His child, and for giving you His joy and His peace. But don't forget to pray for those who are still seeking Him: your friends and co-workers, and all those who are looking for the truth. Pray that you will be a witness to them. Pray that your actions, words, and attitudes will help lead them to Jesus. The best gift you can give the Lord today is a heart open to spreading his love!

*"Jesus, just as the Wise Men did, I kneel before you,
gazing on your glory in the Eucharist.*

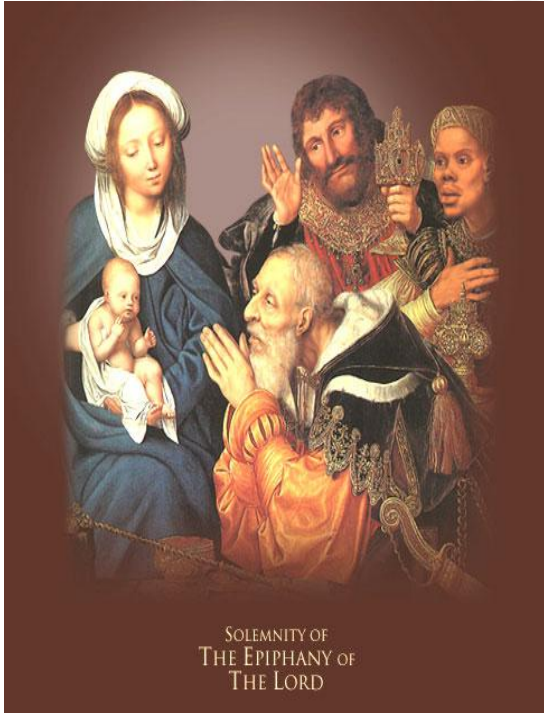
May I become a tabernacle of your mercy, shining your light everywhere I go."



"Why did the Magi set off from afar to go to Bethlehem? The answer has to do with the mystery of the 'star' which they saw 'in the East' and which they recognized as the star of the 'King of the Jews,' that is to say, the sign of the birth of the Messiah. So their journey was inspired by a powerful hope, strengthened and guided by the star, which led them toward the King of the Jews, toward the Kingship of God himself." – Pope Benedict XVI

Why a star? Why was that the sign God chose to lead the Magi to the Savior? Why do we still use stars and twinkling lights to celebrate Christmas today? Jesus is the light of the world! The world had been stained dark with sin, and it was only getting darker, but just like a single candle in a pitch black room, a single light can make all the difference. St. John tells us that "a light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." Once the light of Jesus started to shine in our world, nothing could ever cover it up again. When you see stars and lights this Christmas, let them remind you of Christ who brings us light when life seems the darkest.





STAR GAZERS

Around a thousand years ago a stonemason in Autun, France, was working on decorations for the city's new cathedral. One of his carvings shows a charming scene.

The three kings, all wearing crowns and sharing one cozy bed, are being awakened by an angel pointing to a star. The angel's finger is gently touching the hand of one of the kings on top of the patterned coverlet. This king's eyes have popped open in surprise, while the other two slumber on. The stonemason artistically combined two biblical stories into one. The star reminds us of the one that led the kings to Bethlehem, while the visiting angel refers to the warning they received in a dream not to return to Herod after visiting the Christ Child. For centuries tradition has held that the names of the kings were Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, but nobody really

knows for sure. Other traditions call them wise men from the East who studied the stars. They were the first non-Jews to recognize and worship the Son of God and give him kingly gifts.

In the Middle Ages, houses were blessed on Epiphany, reflecting how the magi found Christ "on entering the house." Try reviving this ancient tradition today. It can work for any family or household group. One person incenses the house while another sprinkles holy water, and a third writes in chalk over every outside doorway " $20 + C + M + B + 14$ ", which stands for "The three Holy Kings, Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar, in the year of Our Lord 2014." The letters C, M, and B also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this home." Blessing the doorways symbolizes the family's commitment to welcome everyone as Christ into their home throughout the year. Copyright © 2010, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. Mary, Our Mother, help us to know Your Son. Amen.

THANK YOU !!!

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

We want to thank all who made our Advent and Christmas Masses so beautiful. Thank you to our FCMM Choirs , Lectors, 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. 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, Mass Sponsors, Offerors, Flower and Decoration Donors.

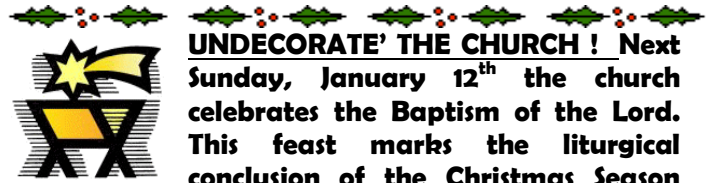
We hope that everyone have a *Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year!*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

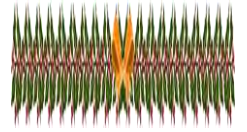
SEÑOR STO. NIÑO

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.



UNDECORATE' THE CHURCH ! Next Sunday, January 12th the church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord. This feast marks the liturgical conclusion of the Christmas Season and it will be time to pack-up our Christmas decors. We will need your help *after the Mass next Sunday, January 12* to "un-decorate" the church and prepare it for the big feast of the Sto. Niño. Remember that "Many hands make light work." If you can lend a hand, it will be deeply appreciated



Offering Envelopes



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.

HELP KEEP OUR HOSPITALITY CORNER CURRENT

As we begin a New Year, it is imperative to update the bulletin's hospitality corner. Please contact the FCMM Office or the Bulletin Editor if you would want to put a name on our prayer list. (E-mail address - jhnaracena@gmail.com)
NOTE: Our regular Hospitality Corner will be back next issue !



"The gift we have received give as a gift." The love, joy and peace of God that became incarnate in the Son of God have become Christ's gift to all of his disciples, including us. May God grant us these gifts in greater abundance in this new year.