

The Baptism of the Lord



11 January 2015
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

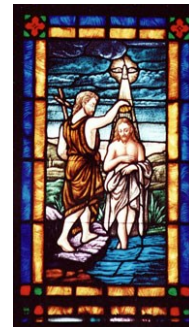
The feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the last day of the Christmas season. At daily prayer this day, the Orthodox churches pray:

*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 2015

Universal:

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

For Evangelization:

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.





ONCE AGAIN... THANK YOU !!!



To all who made the FCMM's celebration of ADVENT and CHRISTMAS 2014 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 and Sr. Luz; you 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!**



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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,

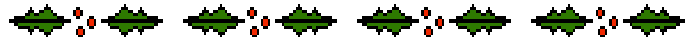
To feed the hungry,

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 18, 2015 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 Mrs. Fredina Kardos and Mrs. Precy Pavico 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 2015 ENVELOPES are still available for pick-up after each Mass. Please contact

Offering Envelopes



Mr. Pedro Diaz, Jr.,
Mr. Mel Villanueva or the FCMM Office.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

***Please discard your remaining 2014 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.



BAPTISM



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.

one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism

Ephesians 4:5



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.

Stewardship

YOUR OFFERINGS

- For DECEMBER 24, 2014 = \$ 3,584.00
- For the Weekend of DECEMBER 28, 2014 totalled \$ 1,484.00
- For the Weekend of January 4, 2015 Totalled \$ 1,277.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

PRAISES, PRAYERS AND PETITIONS



We join in the *Thanksgiving Intentions* of :
EMY CASTANEDA, PATRICK PAVICO, LIPIDA FAYTAREN and FAMILY, MR. & MRS. DANTE TABAMO, MR.& MRS. REY LICERIO, JESSIE DELA CRUZ, LEA MATEO, MERCY PADUA, MR. & MRS. BENITO MAGNO, THE TUVIDA-ROBLES FAMILIES, MR. & MRS. MANNY LAGASA, THE AMBAYEC FAMILY, MR. & MRS. NILO VALENUELA and FAMILY, ED RUIZ and FAMILY, LINDA & REY BALLARES and FAMIY, THE SUAREZ FAMILY, MERLY GUMAL, CATALINA FLORES, ALLAN TADEO, MR. & MRS. FELIMON TADEO.

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, 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, JOHNNY PALISOC. May God bring them healing and peace.

Remember also all of our *deceased relatives and friends*, especially : **TEODORA DUMANDAN, LAUDINA BADO, LEONA PANGANIBAN, CONSOLACION LAZARO, RUBEN PAMBUAN, MICHAEL PECANIK, RFELY SOLEDAD, CELIA RODRIGUEZ, DELIA SUNIO, TEODORA DUMANDAN, WILFREDO BADO, FRUCTUOSA VELASQUEZ, TERESA DAHIROC, CONSOLACION BACOSA, 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.