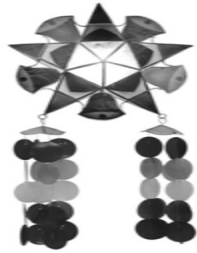


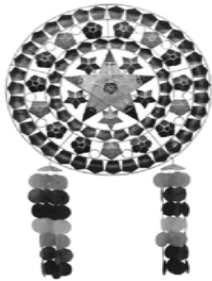


PAROL

The word Parol comes from the Spanish word “farol” which means lantern or “ilawan” in Tagalog. It is a traditional Filipino Christmas decoration, a five point star-shaped Christmas lantern. Its shape is inspired by the star on the Nativity of Jesus. It reminds Filipino Christians of the star of Bethlehem that guided the Three Wise Men on their way in search of Baby Jesus. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and the Filipinos' hope and goodwill during the Christmas season.



The Parol was adapted from the Chinese lantern and the Mexican piñata to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. Due to lack of electricity, the five-pointed star-shaped pattern was adapted by barrio folks to light their paths during the Simbang Gabi or Misa de Gallo. As early as November, Parols are hang on windows and are not taken down until the sixth day of January to honor the "Three Kings" and their visit to the child Jesus.



The Parol represents Filipino innovation, creativity and it is the greatest expression of Christmas spirit. The Parol uplifts the spirit, instills a sense of pride and hope. It not only brightens Filipino Christmas, but it serves as an inspiration for Filipino ingenuity. (Sources: Wikipedia, M.M. Del Rosario)

***Wishing you
and your family
a wonderful Christmas
filled with the
joy of togetherness
and the
warmth of God's love***

***We'll see you back
on Friday – January 8th***

***“For unto you
is born
this day
in the city of
David
a Saviour,
which is
Christ the
Lord.”***

Luke 2:11



Living Water



www.bldworld.org

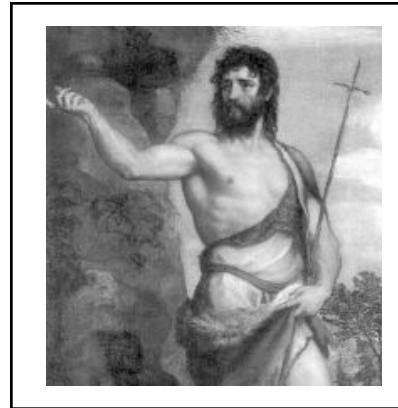


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December 11, 2009

**BUKÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS • OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD
Toronto District**

Third Sunday of Advent



thanksgiving; let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:4

REFLECTION:

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called “Gaudette” Sunday, meaning “Joyous” Sunday. It is a time of preparing our hearts for the birth of the One who is our lasting peace. The prophet Zephaniah proclaims: “Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Saviour.”

THEME:

We are vigilant for the coming of Jesus when we joyfully show kindness to all.

WORD:

Zep 3:14-18; Is 12:2-6; Phil. 4:4-7; Lk. 3:10-18

ORDER:

Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with

St. Paul's writing to the Christians at Philippi encourages them with these words: “Dismiss all anxiety from your minds...God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus.” For when we learn to be generous, to exercise our authority with a spirit of service and to labour for the good of all, we are liberated from that anxiety which destroys true peace. Yes, St. Paul gives us important practical advice, Rejoice in the Lord always and do not worry about anything. Rather, let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. We should be

happy not because everything is going well with us, not because our health and finances are in great shape, but simply because the Lord is near. We should rejoice not because of what we have seen in the past, or what we have seen today, but because of what we shall see tomorrow. It is happiness that springs from the faith and the hope that our Lord is coming to wipe away the tears from our eyes. Something might have happened to us at this time when Christmas is coming and how we wish we knew the answer. No one really knows. But Paul reassures us today that the coming of the Lord will be a happy surprise for those who believe and hope in Him. He is teaching us not only in words but by example as well. "Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. The Lord is coming and all will be well; and all manner of things will be well. But how can one keep from worrying when he is surrounded by apparently insurmountable difficulties? Paul gives us the answer. "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known to God." Paul knows one thing that we should do: to take our requests to the Lord in prayer. This is how we arrive at that inner peace which people around us cannot understand. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:7) It is the peace that God gives, the peace that nothing in the world can give, and all because we have learned to trust God in everything and in every situation. Together with St. Paul, we can pray "Come, Lord, Jesus, Come."

The Gospel tells of John preparing his disciples for the coming of the Messiah. (Lk.3:15) He wants them to be more generous, honest, and fair in their dealings with people. Baptism by fire means that we are to be sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we may become holy children of God. Because we are sanctified, we can enter heaven, for heaven is the home of those who are pure, gentle, humble and obedient, those who share with the needy, regardless of whom they are and where they may be. May John the Baptist give us strength and courage to bear the light to others, and the generosity and ability to rejoice as we wait. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of Man, let us lay bare and cleanse our inner spirit through the Sacrament of confession and in fostering Christian peace, bringing pleasure and affection to those around us. Let us be joyful like the shepherds, the wise men, Mary and Joseph. We have much reason to rejoice because we have the best gift, the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Praise God.

DIRECTION:

- ❖ Let our kindness be known to everyone by sharing our blessings with those who have little or nothing especially this Advent Season.
- ❖ Let us keep on doing the things that we have learned and received and heard and seen in Jesus, and the God of peace will be with us.

GOD'S PROMISE:

"The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7

YOUTH



KORNER

MINISTRY

2009 JOINT YOUTH & MARK 10 CHRISTMAS PARTY

The BLD Youth Ministry together with the Mark 10s, jointly celebrated Jesus' birthday on November 27, 2009. At first, the OLA basement hall was nothing but a huge space, but it was quickly filled with excited children. One could feel the Christmas spirit with all the Christmas colors everywhere and the brightly colored wrapped gifts. The celebration began with the Youth Praise and Worship. The emcees, Kyle Fernandez and Hart Artes, introduced Dara Andino, the Prayer Leader. The once noisy room suddenly turned quiet and everyone stayed calm and still, as the Lord's Spirit poured down upon us and we were all able to focus in peace. As soon as it ended, everyone posed for a group picture. Everyone had a good time in spite of the cramping of the knees or the cheeks for smiling too long and trying to look their best.

A party is never complete without delicious food. We were blessed to have Chantelle Ouano to lead the Grace before meals. Some people might have said that the food was their favourite part, while others, the presentation. After the meal, the emcees, Kyle Fernandez & Hart Artes introduced the "St. Nicholas" youth group who presented: "On the ...Days God Gave to Us", which was a parody of "12 Days of Christmas". This created so much laughter and unforgettable memories. The celebration did not end there. All the youth and the Mark 10s played the exciting game, "The Boat is Sinking". The last thing on the list was the exchange of the much awaited wrapped presents, revealing each other's secret Santa. Everyone was very happy, including the adults who were laughing the whole time while observing the whole event. The entire evening was loaded with fun; it brought all members together as one group, one family, and most importantly as unified children of God. (by **Jean Caniedo**)



REMINDER:

Next YLSS # 11 Orientation & Registration: Friday, January 8, 2010