



Filipino Catholic Ministry
Archdiocese of Vancouver

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR COORDINATOR

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

Warm greetings to you during this festive season! May the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts with peace and joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ.



I am profoundly grateful to God for the multitude of inspirations that have allowed His "Word to become flesh" through the dedicated service of volunteer disciples in His Vineyard. My appreciation extends to those unsung heroes who have contributed ideas, stories, examples, and shared life experiences, shaping the essence of our ministry.

Thank you for your unwavering and unconditional support, fostering the growth of faith, love, and understanding of God's ways through our collective journey.

As we eagerly anticipate the dawn of a new year, let us not only focus on festive preparations but also on renewing and strengthening relationships. This calls for reflection and meditation on the Word of God during our celebrations, in our daily lives, and within our relationships.

Stepping into the New Year, let us entrust ourselves to the loving guidance of Mother Mary, who will accompany us on our life journey.

May God's blessings and constant care continue to envelop us.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

With gratitude,

Deacon Raul Abella
Coordinator
Filipino Catholic Ministry



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Filipino Catholic Ministry



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Filipino Catholic Ministry
Archdiocese of Vancouver

First Quarter
January 2024



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

A YEAR OF SPIRITUAL MILESTONES

Written by Michelle Marie C. Aprecio

The Filipino Ministry in the Archdiocese of Vancouver curated a year of spiritual milestones in 2023, celebrating a Mass Wedding, the 1st Anniversary of the Dedication of the Sto. Niño Shrine, and the cherished Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena. These events not only marked significant moments of faith but also fostered unity and celebration within the Filipino community.

June 24: Mass Wedding

On June 24th, a heartwarming celebration unfolded as eighteen civilly married couples gathered for a Mass Wedding at the Our Lady of Good Counsel in Surrey, BC. The Most Reverend Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, officiated the ceremony. His inspiring homily drew parallels between Jesus's miracle at the wedding in Cana and the sacrament of marriage, emphasizing the transformative power of a God-blessed union. Couples were encouraged to embrace selflessness, forgiveness, and unwavering commitment as they embarked on their shared life journey.

August 16-26: 1st Anniversary Celebration of the Dedication of the Sto. Niño Shrine

In a triumphant celebration of faith, unity, and love, the Sto. Niño Shrine in Agassiz, BC, marked its first anniversary of dedication in 2023. The event, held from August 16 to 26, showcased a perfect blend of spirituality and cultural significance.

The festivities commenced with the Opening Salvo Mass on August 16, 2023, led by Archbishop J Michael Miller. Daily Rosary and Novena prayers, followed by Mass, were held from August 17 to 25, 2023, with the Dedication Anniversary Mass on August 26, 2023, presided over by Archbishop Jose S. Palma.

A highlight of the celebration was the procession on August 16 and 26, featuring the enchanting Sinulog dance—a visual and spiritual testament to collective faith and unwavering devotion to our dear Sto. Niño.

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Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena

The Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena, a vibrant Filipino tradition, commenced with the Commissioning Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral on December 14. This event, featuring a parade of Christmas lanterns with an impressive 31 participating parishes, symbolized community unity as they prepared for the nine-day novena leading to Christmas. Simbang Gabi, deeply ingrained in Filipino culture since its introduction by Spain in the 16th century, weaves together religious devotion with cultural celebrations. This cherished tradition underscores the penitential spirit of Advent, fostering communal joy in anticipation of Christmas. The Mass at Holy Rosary Cathedral, along with the lantern procession and blessing, has become a significant moment in the Archdiocese's Christmas preparations, showcasing the unique blend of faith and cultural heritage within the Filipino community in Vancouver.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

Written by Michelle Marie C. Aprecio

Join us for an exciting line-up of events at the Filipino Ministry

Feast of the Sto. Niño

We are fortunate to have numerous parishes commemorating the Feast of the Sto. Niño, each organizing their distinctive set of activities. Kindly extend your invitation to friends and fellow parishioners, urging them to participate in the virtual celebration featuring the rosary, novena, and mass, scheduled from January 12 to January 20. The online festivities can be accessed on YouTube at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/Sc7mW-4Z1ag?si=ZJ2yK36gPWgCZpxC>.

The celebration's highlight will be on January 21, Sunday, with a Holy Mass at the Shrine in Agassiz starting at 4 pm. Your presence and participation would contribute significantly to the joy of this special occasion.



The Passion of the Christ

Embark on a powerful journey through "The Passion of Christ," a compelling theatrical production spanning biblical stories from Adam and Eve to Jesus' crucifixion. In collaboration with the Philippines Historama Society of BC, this play transcends cultures, aiming to deeply reflect on Christ's sacrifice during the Lenten Season of 2024. Beyond entertainment, it unites parishes, Catholic organizations, and multicultural ministries, aligning with RCAF's mission and supporting outreach programs. The partnership with the Philippines Historama Society underscores a commitment to cultural exchange, while the performance serves as a fundraiser for future RCAF Outreach and Ministries projects through the Filipino Ministry Office.

Mass Wedding

Embrace the joy of a church wedding and let the summer be the season that elevates your commitment to new heights!

If you and your spouse are civilly married and dream of a church wedding, seize the opportunity to have your union recognized by the Church. Join Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, as he celebrates a wedding Mass for a large number of civilly married couples. This unique event is a chance to sanctify your love and embark on a spiritual journey together. Don't miss this extraordinary occasion to add a beautiful chapter to your love story and make memories that will last a lifetime.

