iThe first action of Jesus after His baptism was: “He saw” (Mk 1:10). When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John, “immediately on coming up out of the water He saw” the sky split and the Spirit descend on Him (Mk 1:10). Before Cornelius and his household received the Holy Spirit, Peter began preaching to them in “these words; ‘I begin to see’” (Acts 10:34). It is prophesied that the Messiah upon Whom God’s Spirit rests will “open the eyes of the blind” (Is 42:7).

Today’s celebration of the baptism of Jesus is associated with seeing God, others, and ourselves in a new way. After receiving the graces of this last day in the Christmas season, renew your baptismal promises, open your eyes, and receive the Spirit.

Prayer: Father and Son, today send the Holy Spirit, the true Christmas Spirit.

Promise: “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us; not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of His mercy.” —Ti 3:4-5

Praise: Praise Jesus, beloved Son of the Father! Lord Jesus, baptize us in the Holy Spirit, the true Christmas Spirit.

“Who loves us (and even likes us) (Mk 1:11). a person; we will see Him as our own Father God not as a force or a thing or even as only our old standards (2 Cor 5:16). We will see this season, we will “no longer know Him by” graces of this last day in the Christmas season, we will see other people as God sees them. This will transform the way we see ourselves. We will truly believe we are chosen, beloved, royal, priestly, and holy (see 1 Pt 2:9). Then we will see other people as God sees them. We will love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt 22:39). We will “esteem the person of every” human being (1 Pt 2:17).

On this last day of the Christmas season, renew your baptismal promises, open your eyes, and receive the Spirit.

Prayer: Father and Son, today send the Holy Spirit, the true Christmas Spirit.

Promise: “When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us; not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of His mercy.” —Ti 3:4-5

Praise: Praise Jesus, beloved Son of the Father! Lord Jesus, baptize us in the Holy Spirit, that we may sing Your praises everywhere.

Something to think about...

Any married person knows that loving and respecting your spouse is not always easy. We don’t always feel loving or loved, lovable or worthy of respect.

Relationship is difficult because we ourselves are such a mix of beauty and goodness on the one hand, selfishness and sinfulness on the other.

Learning how to give and receive love and respect is one of the delights and challenges of marriage and of human life in general. Married or not, it’s our Christian duty and joy to become loving and loved. But we must work this out here on earth, amidst conflict and pain and temptation, falling and getting up again, asking and giving forgiveness along the way. It would be impossible if we were trying to create love. It’s possible because Love created us. Throughout our lives, it woos and shapes us. As St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 5:25 tells us, loving this way means becoming like Christ.
Youth Futsal Team

During the December school holidays, our very own youths came together and formed a soccer team to play at the North East CDC Futsal tournament. The players’ ages range from 14-17 years and the boys displayed a high level of integrity and sportsmanship on the court. Though they had little training as a team, they played each game with pride and gave their opponents a run for their “money”! Congratulations to the team! Those keen to join the soccer team or to train these boys may contact the Youth Office at youthoffice@divinemercy.sg

‘Behind-the-Scenes’ Thanksgiving Gathering

People who worked hard for the Church away from public eyes were treated to a scrumptious dinner at the canteen to show gratitude for their unseen but very crucial service in our community.

We get a sense of satisfaction from sharing our talents and time with the Church and Her people.” – Joseph and Terri Kwok (couple on the right) who are in the Marriage Partners and FIRE Ministry

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

On 13 January, as the Christmas season ends, the Church celebrates another significant event: the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. On this day, Jesus chose to surrender Himself graciously in the River Jordan and be baptised by John the Baptist. Even before the baptism, John cried out, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Catholics see Christening as an important rite, be it for an infant or adult, to cleanse our being and soul from the Original Sin. Jesus sought to purify Himself even though He had no need, which shows how much more thankful we should be to receive this Sacrament, which frees us from sin and joins us with the Trinity. John has “prepared the way”. Are we willing to enter into the River?

Congratulations to our infants who will be baptized this Sunday at the 11.30am Mass.

Catechetical Sunday 2013

As we celebrate catechetical Sunday this weekend, Pope Benedict XVI invites Christians to renew and re-propose the faith to a new generation of Christians using new methods by entering into dialogue with modern culture, and confront cultural crisis brought on by secularisation. Archbishop Nicholas Chia highlighted the followings for those engaged in the Ministry of the Word:

- Re-think the way Catechetical sessions are planned and executed
- Is our Christianity a way of life or just something we “teach” on Sundays?
- How can we create a “culture of witness” in our parishes?

Planning for Divine Mercy Feast Day

There will be meeting of Divine Mercy members, NCC core team members, and parishioners interested in planning for the Parish Feast Day on 14 January (Monday) at St Faustina Room, 8.00 pm.

Second Collection

Archdiocesan Commission for Missionary Activity (ACMA) will be having a second collection this weekend to support their missionary activities. Please give generously.

Infant Baptism and Preparation Class

In light of Chinese New Year, Infant Baptism for the month of Feb will be brought forward to 3 Feb. Infant baptism preparation class will be on 27 Jan. Class will be at St. Faustina Room (Level 4), 4pm. Contact Gerard Stewart (97440026) or Francis Ang (96852537) after 6pm.

Holy Family Rosary Devotion (14-20 Jan)

Hosts Francis and Anita Sagaram
Venue Blk 485 Pasir Ris Dr 4 #04-361
Time 8.15pm (Mon & Tue), 3pm (Sun)
For info, contact James Tan (98805080)

Join the Lector Ministry

May the Epiphany of the Lord inspire us to seek Him continually in sacred Scripture and to share it with others. If you feel the call to give voice to God’s saving Word in the midst of our assembly, join the Lector Ministry. Training and orientation will be provided. Email lector@divinemercy.sg or fongdavidmathew@yahoo.com or call David Fong at 96355464.

Catechism Classes

We begin classes for our children and teens after Chinese Year on the weekend on 16/17 Feb. Please visit our website (click Ministries) for full details of the Catechetical Calendar.

Parish Secretariat

Luke Teo has joined as our new secretariat. Let us give him our full support and work hand in hand.

Canteen Opening

The canteen will reopen on 13 Jan. Do bring your family along for breakfast.

Talk organised by CDM Intercessory Prayer Group

“Understanding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit” by Jessica Francisco
Venue Parish Hall (level 2)
When 17 Jan (Thurs), 8 - 10pm

The topics selected are for the benefit of all, those who are new to the Ministry, to get a better insight as to their roles. For members, it is a time to recap and recharge.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Prayers for Christian Unity

The Committee of Ecumenical Movement invites you to 2 Evening Services to pray for Christian Unity, we warmly invite you to join us in fellowship and refreshments, offered after the evening’s service.

Friday 18 January 2013, 8pm
Blessed Sacrament Church
Commonwealth Avenue

Thursday 24 January 2013, 8pm
Barker Road Methodist Church
Barker Road

Cenacle Sisters “At-Home Retreat”

(based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius) – a 10-week retreat over Lent-Easter season “Journey Towards New Life” (Wed evenings, 6 Feb – 10 April @ Sts Peter & Paul Church). For more info, contact Cenacle Sisters Tel: 6565-2985, 9722-3148, 9181-7763 or visit Cenacle website http://www.catholic.org.sg/ cenacle or email: cenaclesisters@yahoo.com.sg