



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

**(Open in Spirit to God)**

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

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Bulletin Edition

December 10, 2021

**NEWS**

## BLD Newark receives an early Christmas present

*“I delight to do your will, my God; your law is in my inner being!” (Ps 40:9)*

It was the first Friday of December, the first week of Advent, and the Divine Mercy Church was more full as compared to other BLD Fridays. And what a welcome sight it was! But Community members were there not just for the First Friday Mass; they were also there to witness our BLD Newark brothers and sisters answering God’s call.



For fourteen of them, Danah Albuero, Mayjen and Eric Apiado, Charma Belleza, Bambi and Tina Cabanig, John Cam, Lito and Cheryl de la Cruz, Jezreel Gaudiel, Cheryl Guinto, Mhyll Guinto, Boyet and Marge Trinidad, this night was the culmination of their discipling journey. This final step into becoming covenanted disciples came just several weeks after they had signed their Covenant Pledges during the Aspirants’ Retreat weekend that was held last October. Last Friday night’s covenanting ceremony involved the offering of what they had signed as gifts during the Eucharistic Celebration and the recitation of their pledges in front of the congregation; it concluded with Fr. Joe Meagher’s anointing upon all of them.

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**COUNSELS**

## True Meaning of Christmas

**THEME:** We prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Savior, when we joyfully proclaim the Good News to His people.

**WORD:** Zep 3:14-18A/ Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6/  
Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

**ORDER:** *“Rejoice, your kindness should be known to all.” (Phil 4:6)*

**REFLECTION:**

*“John answered them all, saying “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire.” (Luke 3: 14-16)*

**J**ohn the Baptist announces, that one mightier than him is coming and they should prepare and be ready for Him. The question arises.... how can we prepare for His coming? With Christmas just around the corner, we sometimes think about that question more and more and how we can prepare ourselves better every year. It is also a good way to think of how we can use our journey here on earth to prepare for what is to come in His Kingdom. We feel a sense of happiness at this time, and we are filled with joy that the Lord Jesus comes to us always and repeatedly every year. It urges us to live in ...Continued on page 3

**Promise of the Week**

*“The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:7)*

# Pope at Angelus: Be humble like Mary to attract God's eye

Taken from Vatican News:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-12/pope-francis-angelus-solemnity-mary-immaculate-humility.html>

Pope Francis continues his catechesis series on St. Joseph at the Wednesday General Audience, and says that Joseph shows that even those who appear on the margins of society have a special role in God's plan of salvation.

By Francesca Merlo

Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for the Angelus on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis turned to the day's Liturgy, which "brings us into the house of Nazareth, where she receives the angel's annunciation". Within intimate domestic walls, the Pope noted, "the Gospel gives us a detail that reveals the beauty of Mary's heart".

## Full of grace

Pope Francis noted that the angels refer to Mary as being "full of grace". If this is true, continued the Pope, it means that she is "void of evil: she is without sin, Immaculate".

The Pope noted that Mary is troubled at the angel's greeting. "Receiving grand greetings, honours, and compliments sometimes brings the risk of provoking pride and presumption", said the Pope, adding that "Jesus is not gentle" with those who go in search of greetings, adulation, and visibility.

Mary does not exalt herself as "the angel's greeting seemed too grand for her". That humility attracts God's eyes, explained the Pope.

## Free from herself

In this scenario, we see "a marvellous characteristic" of Mary's heart. "She does not lay claim to anything", explained the Pope, "for in her humility she knows she receives everything from God". In this manner, the Pope continued, "free from herself, she is completely directed toward God and others". This is true humility, said the Pope.

Pope Francis went on to note the importance of the declaration being made within the walls of a house and not in a main square.

"In that little house of Nazareth beat the

→ greatest heart that any creature has ever had", said the Pope.

He explained that within these humble walls, "God changed history"; and even today, "God's grace loves to operate there more than in great historical events".

## She will never abandon

Bringing his reflection to an end, Pope Francis invited all those listening to "ask the Madonna for the grace": that she free us from the misleading idea that the Gospel is one thing and life is another; and that she enkindle enthusiasm in us for the ideal of sanctity, which has nothing to do with holy cards and pictures. Instead, he said, sanctity or holiness is about living humbly and joyfully what happens each day, freed from ourselves, with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbour we meet.

"Let us not lose heart", concluded the Pope, for "no one who asked for her help has ever been abandoned!"



# NEWS

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Afterwards, the blessings and celebration continued with the anointing of two couples who've accepted God's call to serve as ministry coordinators in His vineyard:

York and Denise Miguel – Secretariat and Rey and Elma Pineda - Mission Advocacy.

***"...Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."* (Luke 1:38)**

Just like Mary, these beloved brothers and sisters said "YES" to the Lord.

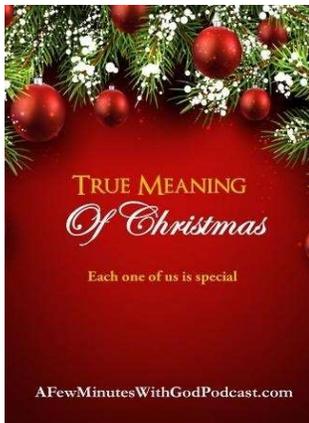
Thank You Lord! Praise God! Alleluia!



# COUNSELS

(from page 1)

a manner full of joy, happiness, and excitement. We sometimes lose sight of the deep significance of this season, rather than reflecting, repenting, and receiving the Sacraments. We must prepare, not only during this time but every day in our lives, for the coming of Jesus and welcome Him into our hearts again and forever. Advent calls all of us to continually commit to being His true followers and living our lives knowing His steadfast love surrounds us all. It is easy to become distracted by the world around us and we get so wrapped up in the decorations, the gifts and glitz, that we forget the greater purpose of the season. Advent helps us to seek the true meaning of what Jesus calls each and every one of us to be, as we celebrate the first coming of Christ and look forward in hope to His glorious second coming.



Whatever the Lord calls us to do, whether it be in our home, church or in community, let us trust that He will lead and walk with us every step of the way. To take courage and trust more and more is part of preparing, not only for the season but for when Our Messiah comes again. Let us all have peace in our hearts and rejoice for He calls each one of us to have a heart and mind filled with Christ the Lord. We must always remind ourselves that Jesus is our way and light and that His presence in our lives helps us to repent and follow Him. When our days are filled with prayer and with discipline, we can freely choose to follow Him and know that His presence will sustain us so that the cross we carry becomes lighter. So let us remember, not only during this season but throughout the year, what St. Paul told the Philippians, ***“Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”*** (Phil 4:7)



Lord, thank you for reminding us always that You are the Light that shines beyond the heavens above and the earth below. May our actions always reflect →→

→ the love and passion You have for us to help us be Your true followers. Please give us always the strength and courage to persevere in this world during the times we can't seem to grasp or understand the things that may be pulling us down. May You always be magnified and glorified in our daily lives. Holy Spirit be with all of us as we continue our journey in this world. Keep Your fire burning in our lives and the lives of our loved ones. May You always instill in all of us that You are more than enough in our lives, and may that be reflected in our actions and words with others. As we await Your second coming, may You always increase in us as we decrease. Guard our hearts and minds that we may stay true to the identity You have called us to be. May this Advent season fill us with joy and lead us to the true meaning of what we celebrate...

***“The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.”*** (Zep 3:17)

## Directions

1. ***Have no anxiety at all, make your requests known to God, by prayer, petition and thanksgiving.***
2. ***Be generous in sharing.***



## THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lord thank you for the blessings of wisdom and enlightenment and strength. We know that by your grace, we will be guided to the right path safeguarding us from the stronghold of evil.

Thank You for giving us the insight to understand that our worth is not measured by what we have but by what we share. We thank you for giving us the grace of commitment, perseverance and endurance that have empowered us to fulfill the tasks of community building. Thank You for making us realize that our faith in You will carry us through in all circumstances. Thank You for Your abiding presence in our lives. We are Your people destined to be united with You. We look with confident expectation of transformed lives, directed towards praising You, serving You and always keeping You in our sight until You come to us in glory. Amen.



Joe Tobin @CardinalJW Tobin · Dec 8

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's freedom from sin. In her, we see what are called to be—people in perfect communion with God and with all our sisters and brothers. Pray for us, Holy Mary. Help us encounter your Son, Jesus, as we journey together.

**GAUDETE SUNDAY REJOICE!!!**



# THE MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

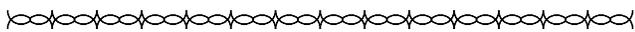
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen.



**Share your Time and Talent: Become a  
Covenant News contributor!**

### **Questions of the month:**

***What are your Christmas traditions?***

***How do you celebrate Christmas?***

Send your responses to Word Ministry at  
[Word@BLDNewark.com](mailto:Word@BLDNewark.com).



**Celebrate  
JESUS  
with us!**

A fellowship/get-together after  
Worship on Friday, Dec. 17 at the  
Auditorium from 10 – 11:30 pm.

**Music! Food! Dance!**

## LORD'S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK'S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 3,285.07	\$101,239.04
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990.00
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00

Financial details are available to all members through [treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

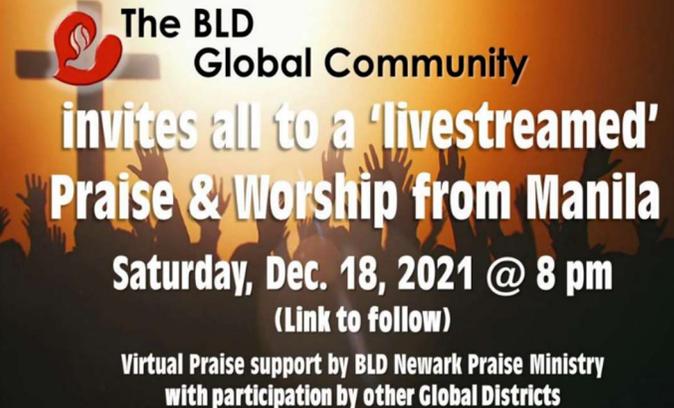
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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**The BLD  
Global Community**  
invites all to a 'livestreamed'  
**Praise & Worship from Manila**  
**Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 @ 8 pm**  
(Link to follow)

Virtual Praise support by BLD Newark Praise Ministry  
with participation by other Global Districts

**Livestream Praise and Worship from Manila**  
**Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 @ 8 pm**  
**Virtual Praise support by BLD Newark Praise  
Ministry**  
**with participation by other Global Districts**

Please join our own Intercessory Ministry in their  
nightly community prayers via Zoom.  
Everyone is most welcome to participate  
Zoom ID: 2265467380 / PW: 750109 @6:30PM  
For more details, please contact  
Ram & Claire Bautista

### **Soup Kitchen**

**Saturday, December 18, 2021| 9:00AM**  
**Missionaries of Charity**  
**Mission Ministry – Contact: Rene & Claire Monje**