



Loving the Child Jesus in the Children and Youth of Today

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Santo Niño, a devotion deeply cherished by Filipino Catholics. It reminds us of the beginnings of our faith and speaks powerfully to our lives today, especially our care for children and the youth, with their challenges and their promise. As we begin this Eucharistic celebration, we entrust our children and young people to the loving protection of the Holy Child. May the Santo Niño, so close to our history and our hearts, guide them and teach us to love and care for them as he does.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(To be recited only when no entrance hymn is sung.)

A child is born for us,
and a son is given to us;
his scepter of power rest upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger
of great counsel. *(Is 9:15)*

GREETING

P – Blessed be Jesus who showed a special love for children and young people. May his grace and peace be with you all.
All – And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P – Coming together as God’s family on this Feast of the Sto. Niño, let us ask the Lord’s

forgiveness, that we may offer this Eucharist with a purified heart. *(Pause)*

P – Lord Jesus, your kingdom is universal and for ever peaceful. Lord, have mercy.
All – Lord, have mercy.

P – Lord Jesus, you came to share the frailty of our human nature. Christ, have mercy.
All – Christ, have mercy.

P – Lord Jesus, you want the children and youth to come close to you. Lord, have mercy.
All – Lord, have mercy.

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
All – Amen.

GLORIA

All – Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,

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we adore you,
 we glorify you,
 we give you thanks for your great glory,
 Lord God, heavenly King,
 O God, almighty Father.
 Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you
 take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us;
 you take away the sins of the world,
 receive our prayer;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 have mercy on us.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

P – Almighty God,
 your only Son, begotten from all ages,
 humbled himself as a child in Nazareth
 and became subject to Mary and Joseph.
 Grant that we may learn from his example
 to embrace your will in all things
 and, holding fast to the dignity of all,
 serve our lowly brothers and sisters
 with open hands and gentle heart.
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
 Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever.
All – Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading

Is 9:1-6

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
 The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
 a light has shone.
 You have brought them abundant joy
 and great rejoicing,
 as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
 as people make merry when dividing spoils.
 For the yoke that burdened them,
 the pole on their shoulder,
 and the rod of their taskmaster
 you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
 For every boot that tramped in battle,
 every cloak rolled in blood,
 will be burned as fuel for flames.
 For a Child is born to us, a Son is given us;

upon his shoulder dominion rests.
 They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
 Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
 His dominion is vast
 and forever peaceful.
 from David's throne, and over his kingdom,
 which confirms and sustains
 by judgment and justice,
 both now and forever.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

The word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

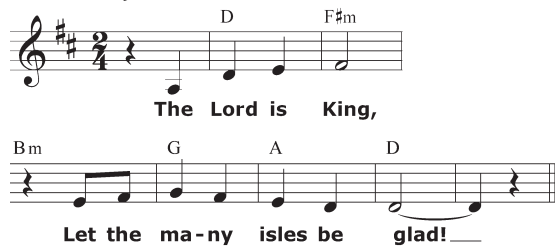
Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:1. 2-3. 3-4. 5-6

R – *The Lord is King; let the many isles be glad!*

Moderately

R.M. Velez



- * Sing to the Lord a new song,
 for he has done wondrous deeds:
 his right hand has won victory for him,
 his holy arm. **R.**
- * The Lord has made his salvation known; in
 the sight of the nations
 he has revealed his justice.
 He has remembered his kindness and
 his faithfulness toward the house of Is-
 rael. **R.**
- * All the ends of the earth have seen the
 salvation by our God.
 Sing joyfully to the Lord,
 all you lands; break into song;
 sing praise! **R.**
- * Sing praise to the Lord with the harp,
 with the harp and melodious song.
 With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
 sing joyfully before the King, the Lord! **R.**

2nd Reading

Eph 1:3-6.15-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
 Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
 Christ,
 who has blessed us in Christ
 with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as

he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ,
in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.
Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus
and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,
that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him.
May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call,
what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones.

The word of the Lord.
All – Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 1:14a. 12a

All – Alleluia, alleluia.
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 18:1-5.10

P – The Lord be with you.
All – And with your spirit.
P – A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All – Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?”

He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said,
“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

See that you do not despise one of these little ones,
for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All – I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man. *(All genuflect and pause after reciting this sentence.)*
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead a
nd the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

P – As we honor the Sto. Niño, let us turn our attention to our children and youth and pray for all their needs, saying:

All – Lord, graciously hear us.

C – That the whole Church, under the leadership of the Holy Father, our bishops, and priests, may always show a special practical love for our children and youth, let us pray. R.

- C** – That all teachers and the Media may help our children and youth imbibe authentic values and motivate them to live by such values, let us pray. **R.**
- C** – That the children and youth of our nation may grow in dedication, purity, and honesty, treasuring and practising their Catholic faith, let us pray. **R.**
- C** – That all parents may care for their children and bring them up as upright citizens and missionary disciples in the Church, let us pray. **R.**

P – Lord, grant us a dedicated concern for the children and the youth of today. May we work for their total welfare for love of you who live and reign for ever and ever.

All – Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

P – Pray, brethren . . .

All – May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P – God, our Creator,
we offer the gifts of bread and wine
to recall the childhood of your only Son.
Let our offering become the sacrifice of him who
brought forgiveness and peace to the world.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All – Amen.

PREFACE OF NATIVITY II

P – The Lord be with you.

All – And with your spirit.

P – Lift up your hearts.

All – We lift them up to the Lord.

P – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All – It is right and just.

P – It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through
Christ our Lord.

For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery,
though invisible in his own divine nature,

he has appeared visibly in ours;
and begotten before all ages,
he has begun to exist in time;
so that, raising up in himself all that was cast
down,
he might restore unity to all creation
and call straying humanity back to the heavenly
Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you,
as in joyful celebration, we acclaim:

All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P – The mystery of faith.

All – When we eat this Bread and drink this
Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you
come again.

COMMUNION RITE

All – Our Father . . .

P – Deliver us, Lord . . .

All – For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.

SIGN OF PEACE

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

All – Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world: have mercy on us. (2x)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world: grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

P – This is the Lord Jesus, the model of our
children and youth. He is the Lamb of God who
takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those
who are called to his supper.

All – Lord, I am not worthy that you should
enter under my roof, but only say the word and
my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*(To be recited only when no Communion
hymn is sung.)*



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Jesus went down and Mary and Joseph and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. (Lk 2:51)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P—Loving Father, you have nourished us at the banquet in honor of the Child born of the Virgin. We pray that we may advance in wisdom and grow daily in faith and works of love, so that we may find favor in your sight. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All – Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.
All – And with your spirit.

P—Bow down for the blessing. (Pause)
– May God enable you to appreciate the importance of our children and youth for the life of the Church and our country.
All—Amen.

P—May He make you His privileged instruments in promoting the welfare and growth of the young people in our country.
All – Amen.

P—May He reward your efforts to edify the young generation with your good example.
All – Amen.

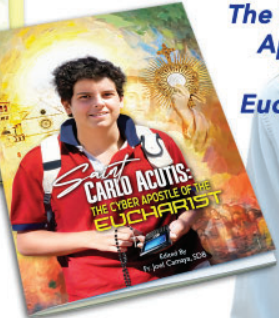

P—May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All – Amen.

P—Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
All – Thanks be to God.

Meet the Church's Newest Saint -

Saint CARLO ACUTIS!


Canonized by Pope Leo XIV on September 7, 2025,
Saint Carlo is the patron of the digital age
and a model of holiness for the youth.



- Timeline of Carlo Acutis' Life
- Carlo Acutis: A Life Connected with Christ
- A Walkthrough of Carlo Acutis'
- Novena to Saint Carlo Acutis
- How to Be Like Carlo Acutis
- Carlo's Path to Sainthood
- Places of St. Carlo Acutis

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