Sunday, December 27, 2026
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Prayer for the Morning

Jesus Christ is true God of true God and true man of true man: come, let us adore him, alleluia!

Glory to the Father…Amen. Alleluia

Hymn — Meter: 11 11 11 5

Is it not joy to sing his royal birthday,
That Son begotten of the highest Father,
And House of David with the names ennobling
That ancient kindred?
Back from the borders of the Nile's far limits
Led by an angel, swift the Boy returning
Bears many hardships; then with foster-father
Finds home and safety.
There humbly learning Joseph's trade so lowly,
Jesus grows up, his life completely hidden;
Willingly joins the carpenter at labor,
Helping at woodcraft.
There the kind mother sits by Son beloved,
There the good wife too sits beside her husband:
Happy in easing cares and weary burdens
By loving service.
You three who know so well both toil and labor,
You suffered hardship: help the poor and needy
Whom while they struggle poverty oppresses
With sharp affliction!
So to you, Jesus, glory be and power,
Who give us holy life's most perfect model,
With highest Father and life-giving Spirit
Reigning for ever.

Canticle — Psalm 128

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him. (Lk 2:33)

This feast reminds us that Jesus lived a real human life among real people of flesh and blood. The Son of God became the obedient son of a foster father and a Mother who, together, accepted him and walked obediently in God's mysterious ways, like the faith-filled family extolled in this psalm. But their Child's children, destined for the heavenly Jerusalem, fill the whole world!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labor of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper;
your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.
Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children
in a happy Jerusalem!
On Israel, peace! Glory to the Father

Word of God — Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents [in the Lord], for this is right. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise, "that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord.

For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. (1 Thes 5:5))

Canticle of Zechariah

Be imitators of God, as beloved children. (Eph 5:1)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father…

Intercessions

Let us adore the Son of the living God and beg him:

R/Sanctify us, Lord Jesus, by your obedience!

Son of God and Son of Man, you were born into a human family: – strengthen the bonds of love and reverence in every family. R/

Eternal Word of the Father, you subjected yourself to Mary and Joseph: – teach us humility. R/

Creator of the universe, you were known as the son of a carpenter: – teach us to reverence the gift of work.R/ Personal intentions

Our Father....

God and Father of all, you gave us the Holy Family to serve as an example of love and obedience. Grant to all people, in family homes or alone, the grace to hold in honor the bonds of love and respect which bind the human race chosen for adoption as your children, 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. Amen

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Reading 1 Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children;/ a mother's authority he confirms over her sons./ Whoever honors his father atones for sins,/ and preserves himself from them./ When he prays, he is heard;/ he stores up riches who reveres his mother./ Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,/ and, when he prays, is heard./ Who-ever reveres his father will live a long life;/ he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;/ grieve him not as long as he lives./ Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;/ revile him not all the days of his life;/ kindness to a father will not be forgotten,/ firmly planted against the debt of your sins/—a house raised in justice to you.

Reading 2 Colossians 3:12-17

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, [just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:/ "Now, Master, you may let your servant go/ in peace, according to your word,/ for my eyes have seen your salvation,/ which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,/ a light for revelation to the Gentiles,/ and glory for your people Israel."/ The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.] When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him..

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat.