

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

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: 87 87 87

Did you see the eyes of Jesus
When he was a moment old?
Did you feel a stir of wonder,
Feelings of a father's soul?
Did you touch his skin so tender,
Hold him close against the cold?
Holy father, when I meet him
Daily in mysterious sign,
In the Scriptures, in my neighbor,
In the guise of bread and wine,
Pray that I may too embrace him,
Gratefully acclaim him mine.

Psalm

128

They went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth.

(cf. Mt 2:23)

This feast reminds us that Jesus lived a real human life in a real earthly time and place. The Son of God became the obedient son of a foster father and a mother who, together, accepted him and walked in God's mysterious ways like the 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 embrace the work you entrust to us. **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 Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, 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 3:2-7, 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 3:12-21

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.

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

Gospel Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son.

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazorean.

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!

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