



29 December 2024

Feast of the Holy Family

Year C

Christian Family: Gift & Responsibility

By a happy coincidence, this year the feast of the Holy Family falls on the last Sunday of the year. This gives us a further reason to raise our minds and hearts to God in gratitude for the many blessings He has granted our families during the year that is about to end. We are gifted beyond belief in many ways. Although we may not be fully aware of all the blessings we have received from the Lord, the little we know is more than enough to bring us to thank Him with all our hearts, especially through this Eucharistic Sacrifice.

This is also the time to entrust our own family, as well as all the families throughout the world, to the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth during the new year we are about to begin. Every gift entails a big responsibility and task. May the Lord be the heart of our family. May we love and serve Him as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph did. May He watch over us as He loved and protected the Holy Family of Nazareth.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger. (Lk 2:16)

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All–Amen!

P –The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All– And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as members of God’s family, with confi-

dence let us ask His forgiveness, especially for the sins against our own family and its members. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you grew up in age and wisdom in the context of a loving human family. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you will us to be part of a bigger family called the Church as community of believers. Christ, have mercy!

All–Christ, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, it is your Divine Will that we should live as gifted and responsible members of society. 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, 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!

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Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

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!



1st Reading *Sir 3:2-7.12-14*
The respectful attitude of the children toward their parents is a very important factor in building up a happy family. Such is the truth inculcated by the pious author Ben Sira in today's First Reading.

R –A reading from the Book of Sirach

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. Whoever 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.

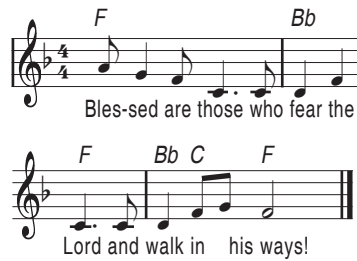
The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 128*

R –*Blessed are those who fear*

the Lord and walk in his ways!

R. M. Velez



* **Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.** **R.**

* **Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.** **R.**

* **Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion: May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.** **R.**

2nd Reading *Col 3:12-21*
Love, mutual respect, and concern should be among the special traits of every Christian family. Such is the enlightening message of St. Paul to the believers of all times.

R –A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 2:41-52*
The Holy Family of Nazareth was deeply devout and followed carefully the religious observances of the people of Israel. Such is the impression we derive from today's Gospel passage which is usually known as "The Finding of Jesus in the Temple."

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why

have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

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, *(bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.** 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 and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —With confidence in the Lord who made us members of a Christian family and of the Church, let us pray for all families in the world:

All—**Through the intercession of the Holy Family, Lord, hear us!**

C —For the great families of the Church and humankind: May all their members enjoy the protection of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all the Filipino families: May their Christian faith and the support of the whole community keep them united in perfect harmony. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the families of the poor and the migrants: May their members always treasure the values of faith, solidarity, and religious faithfulness, in spite of their economic difficulties. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the new families: May they find inspiration in the Holy Family of Nazareth and live to the full the teaching of St. Paul on family life. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For our own families: May the peace of Christ reign in each of our members, and may a selfless love keep us united in mutual forgiveness and solidarity. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For us as we welcome the Jubilee Year: May it strengthen our faith and help us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord God, bless all families throughout the world. Bring all the members of every family closer to You and to one another, and keep them in your peace and love. Through Christ our Lord. **All—Amen!**



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 —We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Christmas 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!



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 —Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

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.)

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us. (Bar 3:38)

Prayer after Communion

P —Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!



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

P —Bow down for the blessing.

(Pause)

—May the Lord of all love keep your families united in peace and mutual service.

All—Amen!

P —May He enable you to support one another, especially in moments of trial.

All—Amen!

P —May He give you and all the members of your families

good health, financial stability, and holiness of life.

All—Amen!

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

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, especially in the members of your own family.

All—Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIBILITY, NOT PRIVILEGE

Kalakbay at Katoto

Everything we do in Church these days, all the feasts we uphold and struggle hard to celebrate... the very life and liturgy of the Church, her Creed, Code and Cult, including the feast of the Holy Family, are all **counter-cultural**.

Countercultural, though, is not to be taken to mean strange, bizarre, unrealistic, and not doable. Let us focus our reflection on today's feast, the Holy Family. Take the case of the First Reading, taken from Sirach. It is a reading from which God's obvious sympathy and commitment to family life simply ooze out unmistakably.

Add now to the mix the exhortations of Paul in his letter to the Colossians. He speaks of kindness, compassion, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love. Reality, no matter how bad, no matter how depressing and disappointing, is best served with a generous dose of family values or virtues such as those mentioned by Paul. Reality, or that which we choose to create for ourselves, could use a little help from some old-fashioned talk about "virtue" or at least, what in ancient times, we called "good manners and right conduct."

Contemporary culture finds it hard now to accept the cultural value prized by the Jews of the times of Jesus that refer to a certain level of "male privilege" over women and children.

And this is exactly where the guidance of the living Church comes to our aid. This is exactly where the Feast of the Holy Family, presented and offered by Holy Mother Church in our times can be of help and guidance to us. The feast teaches us one very important lesson that should jut out of all three readings today. **Christ has come to renew all things. Christ has come as man to change the course of human history. His coming also means a change in the way we relate to**



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one another as human beings, as members of communities and societies, and definitely as members of that basic unit of society called the family. His coming into our lives, and our accepting him as Lord and Savior, means to say that being subject to him and God's will necessitates a transformation in the way we live our lives together, in the way we treat one another.

The virtues enumerated by Sirach, those listed down by Paul, habits of the heart and of the hand that Christian believers lived by changed the lives of the early Christian families. From a totally hierarchical and somewhat culturally blind obedience to men as patriarchs who enjoyed the traditional "male privilege" and "absolute male power," Christians learned to appreciate "co-responsibility," mutual respect and love, solidarity, partnership in life and love, and mutual caring.

In Christian families, it should no longer be a question of who holds the power, but one of

who holds responsibility for, (not over) others. Today's liturgy and celebration, which presents the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as ultimate model and example, show us what our "redeemed" selves are definitely capable of co-creating, together with others.

Yes, I am referring to a message I go back to, time and time again. That message is one of hope and courage. I urge individuals to go and re-connect with their families . . . physically, morally, psychologically, and most of all, spiritually.

The feast of the Holy Family teaches us not about privilege of power and prestige. It teaches us about virtue, about humility and selfless service. For all that these virtues ultimately refer to is Christian responsibility, not privilege. O Blessed and Holy Family of Nazareth, make our people revel, not on status and privilege, but on mutual responsibility for one another. Amen.



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