

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Reading 1

[Sir 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.
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.

or

[Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3](#)

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying:
“Fear not, Abram!
I am your shield;
I will make your reward very great.”
But Abram said,
“O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be,
if I keep on being childless
and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?”
Abram continued,
“See, you have given me no offspring,
and so one of my servants will be my heir.”
Then the word of the LORD came to him:
“No, that one shall not be your heir;
your own issue shall be your heir.”
The Lord took Abram outside and said,
“Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.”
Abram put his faith in the LORD,
who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would;
he did for her as he had promised.
Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age,
at the set time that God had stated.

Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5](#)

R. (cf. 1) Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

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. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

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

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

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. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

or

[Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9](#)

R. (7a , 8a) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
make known among the nations his deeds.

Sing to him, sing his praise,
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Glory in his holy name;
rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!
Look to the LORD in his strength;
constantly seek his face.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

You descendants of Abraham, his servants,
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!
He, the LORD, is our God;
throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

He remembers forever his covenant
which he made binding for a thousand generations
which he entered into with Abraham
and by his oath to Isaac.

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Reading II

[Col 3:12-21 or 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.

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.

or

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or

[Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19](#)

Brothers and sisters:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place
that he was to receive as an inheritance;
he went out, not knowing where he was to go.
By faith he received power to generate,
even though he was past the normal age
(and Sarah herself was sterile
for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy.
So it was that there came forth from one man,
himself as good as dead,
descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky
and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac,
and he who had received the promises was ready to offer
his only son,
of whom it was said,
“Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.”
He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead,
and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

Gospel

[Lk 2:22-40](#) or [2:22, 39-40](#)

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.

or

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according to the law of Moses,
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HOMILY

Hello Family,

Today we celebrate the feast of the “Holy Family”. Normally for this feast of “The Holy Family” we have a family from the parish come and speak about their families and relate it to “The Holy Family”. So here I am; a single guy. Where’s my family? Well, let me explain. All of you folks are like family to me, “My Parish Family”. Also I consider a couple different twelve step fellowships family to me. Then there’s my family of origin. So I’ll say a little bit about growing up in that family.

I feel that the family I grew up in was sort of unusual in the sense that my father left my mother and I before I was born and I lived with just my Mother around five years, until my half brother was born and we moved in with his Dad. At that time I felt some grief and confusion because my real father wasn’t around and it felt awkward to be there. I realize now that I just missed my dad. I had my own issues with this family. I was described as hard to please. Yet somehow things were alright; my needs were met. The family next door took care of my brother and I while my Mother worked and went to school. Their Mother was the one mostly responsible for disciplining me. She always told me to behave myself. I didn’t see her go to Church every Sunday, but she told me she believed in God and one summer she took me to Chinese Bible School for couple of Sunday’s in a row. I had a spiritual experience the first day I was there; I haven’t forgotten. This guy asked everyone to raise their hands, who accept Christ, I did and just then I was touched by God on my right shoulder I turned and I saw something like the Holy Spirit hovering above me in the room to my right. After that those of us who raised their hands went into a small room and the guy read a passage of scripture from the bible. I don’t remember the exact passage but, he emphasized the word “AWE”; and I remember that.

Today I work a program with a couple different twelve step fellowships. These people are like family because we work together to solve our problems dealing with life. Working the program of recovery with my program family and my relationship with this parish has helped me restore the relationship I had with God and self as well as the relationship I have with everyone else I meet. At the same time this community reinforces these relationships that I have established today. The growth I have seen in myself is noticeable. I am now capable of relationships with people I care about like I never was before. As a result of reaching out to the supportive people in fellowship and the guidance I receive from this community and the urging of my Mother and practically everyone else I know to change my ways and turn my life around, I have managed to turn it around a little bit and experience a better life. I feel that I have been through some hard times and today I feel that I can face this life on life’s terms. I have overcome a number of obstacles. I am more responsible for the relationships which I am developing now in a more personal way.

I have always liked this first reading today about Abram and Sarah being childless and the Lord essentially saying to Abram “Keep the Faith”; and then he and Sarah did have Isaac much later; because the Lord was their hope. This story is meaningful to me because I have always thought it was important to have my own family and I have never really been in the position to see it through. This story has always given me hope of that happening one day. By

listening to Jesus' wisdom ever more closely now and with the supportive families here and in the fellowships I belong to; I feel there is a good chance that I can create a family of my own. I feel that I am on my way to realizing this dream since recently I have started working again. This is a big step toward reaching this life goal of mine. I feel that I am strong enough these days to make it happen, if I don't lose site of this endeavor. I have seen my relationships improve in a way that is encouraging to me. I have seen everything in my life crystallizing these last couple of years. I have a sense of commitment to my personal relationships that makes me believe they will last; and if keep working on interpersonal relationship skills; There will be good things in store for me If God is willing. If God is willing for me to meet somebody and to have a family; that's fine, I will do my best, if not, that's fine too. With the support of my various families I will continue to grow either way and do my best to do the work of God.

What is said in the Gospel today about "The Holy Family"? We see this man Simeon blessing God and telling us that to see this special family is what he was waiting his whole life for. We see this woman Anna talking to them of their destiny. Can you see how a miracle of God manifests in this family? Which is the model for us perhaps. This family was created out of "God's Love" and God is present, I see an interesting paradox here with this family. God belongs to this family and this family belongs to Him. God has entrusted this family to be responsible for Him and each other. Each member of this family is entrusted to love, protect and be good to one another. This family works as one because each one supports the other. This family accepts their Lord and he is their help. I think I can see the Lord in the hearts of all his people and I think that's fine with me.

Chris McCann