

Sunday, December 29, 2024
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: CM

The life which God's incarnate Word
Lived here below with men,
Three blest evangelists record
With heav'n-inspirèd pen:
John soars on high, beyond the three,
To God the Father's throne;
And shows in what deep mystery
The Word with God is one.
Upon the Savior's loving breast
Invited to recline,
'Twas thence he drew, in moments blest,
Rich stores of truth Divine:
And thence did that angelic love
His inmost spirit fill,
Which, once enkindled from above,
Breathes in his pages still.

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 that 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 3:2-7, 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

Luke 2:41-52

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.

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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