

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
(Sunday within the Octave of Christmas)
Year A

NOTE: When a Sunday does not occur between December 25 and January 1,
this feast is celebrated on December 30 with only one reading before the Gospel.

Reading 1

Citation: *Sirach, Chap. 3, Verses 2-7, 12-14*
Sirach 3: 2-7, 12-14

Wisdom is dictating, here, reminder us of the essential truths surrounding a life in compliance with God's Will. You are that wise man who everyone turns to for needed advice. Put on the *persona* of the wise person.

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.

(slowly) (a very firm statement of fact)
(same firmness) (Pause)

Whoever honors his father
atones for sins,
and preserves himself from them.
When he prays, he is heard;

(very short pause)
(very short pause)
(short pause)
(Pause)

he stores up riches who reveres his mother.

(lovingly) (Pause)

Whoever honors his father
is gladdened by children,
and, when he prays, is heard.

(very short pause)
(short pause)

Whoever reveres his father
will live a long life;
he who obeys his father
brings comfort to his mother.

(short pause)

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;

(wise person speaking)
(short pause)
("as unbelievable as it may seem")
(short pause)
(Pause)

kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
firmly planted against the debt of your sins
-- a house raised in justice to you.

(very short pause)
(very short pause)
(almost hastily added)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2
Longer Form

Citation: *Colossians, Chap. 3, Verses 12-21*
Colossians 3: 12-21

Paul urges us to be in conformity with Jesus' command to "Love one another" as an essential part of who we think we are. While he is not being particularly domineering in this Paul is gently insistent. He carries his thoughts into the relationships of family members each knowing what is expected of themselves as well as others. The world has confused "love" with infatuation; Paul is arguing for clarity – Love is always seeking the good for and of others. Be Paul as you proclaim because you internalize the concept in your own living.

A reading from the Letter of Saint 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,

(parenthetical expression)
(“ ”)
[A List!]

(very short pause)

(short pause)

if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you,
so must you also do.

(very short pause)

(Pause)

And over all these
put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

(very short pause)
(try leaving out the comma) (Pause)

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace
into which you were also called
in one body.

(Pause)

(parenthetical expression)

And be thankful.

(urging!) (Pause)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly,

(very short pause)

Proclamation Format

as in all wisdom
you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms,
hymns,
and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts
to God.

(Pause)

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.

(very short pause)

(parenthetical expression)

(Pause)

Wives,
be subordinate to your husbands,
as is proper in the Lord.

(short pause)

(Pause)

Husbands,
love your wives,
and avoid any bitterness toward them.

(short pause)

(mean it!) (short pause)

(Pause)

Children,
obey your parents
in everything,
for this is pleasing to the Lord.

(short pause)

(Pause)

Fathers,
do not provoke your children,
so they may not become discouraged.

(short pause)

(very short pause)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2
Shorter Form

Citation: *Colossians, Chap. 3, Verses 12-17*
Colossians 3: 12-17

See the note above. The only difference between the two readings is the exclusion of the part on marriage and family.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on,
as God's chosen ones, (parenthetical expression)
holy and beloved, (" ")
heartfelt compassion, [A List!]
kindness,
humility, gentleness,
and patience, (very short pause)
bearing with one another
and forgiving one another, (short pause)

if one has a grievance against another (questioning tone) (very short pause)
as the Lord has forgiven you, (very firm tone)
so must you also do. (Pause)

And over all these
put on love, (very short pause)
that is, the bond of perfection. (Pause)

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace (short Pause)
into which you were also called
in one body. (parenthetical expression ?)

And be thankful. (urging!) (Pause)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly, (very short pause)
as in all wisdom
you teach and admonish one another,

Proclamation Format

singing psalms,
hymns,
and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

(Pause)

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.

(very short pause)
(parenthetical expression)
(very short pause)

The word of the Lord.

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GOSPEL

Citation: Matthew, Chap. 2, Verses 13-15, 19-23
Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

The decision to flee Herod is made quickly and easily. Joseph's and Mary's trust in the Lord is complete. At Herod's death the family returns to Israel but determines that living in Nazareth is better than returning to the area around Jerusalem. This is all story. The role of the angel in Joseph's dreams is key. Be an insistent yet quiet angel and Joseph is a determined father and husband.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.