

LIVING THE WORD

- ❖ Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. Each of the readings provide a reflection on how family life is lived so as to lead us into 'holiness'.
- ❖ The Book of Ecclesiasticus gives us a reflection on the Commandment to honour one's parents. It implies a respectful relationship between parents and children. The covenant relationship with God is mirrored in relationship to parents. This relationship is lived through prayer, obedience, forgiveness and justice. Consider the ups and downs your parents have been through in raising your family. How do you currently show and practise 'thankfulness'?
- ❖ As parents grow old, sometimes 'the mind fails', which can result in big challenges for adult children. How might reflecting on what your parents did for you as a young child help? What do you do that may 'grieve' your parents? How do you show kindness? If your family relationship was difficult, what does God promise you when you honour your parents? We sometimes treat God like our parents. What impact might that be having on your image and relationship with God?
- ❖ Paul writes to the Colossians who are struggling to welcome 'Gentiles' – (Greeks) into what had been a Jewish Christian community. He writes about the 'Family Code', also called the 'Holiness Code'. We are all called to 'put on' the white garment of baptism and live in the new life of Christ. In the Church (or your family), who gets included or excluded? What are the points of tension? What attitudes could you practise more in your family to develop 'peace' as the controlling virtue of your life?
- ❖ Christians were keen to live by that 'Family Code' to show Roman authorities that they were not dangerous to government. How is 'order' in family life healthy? How can married couples live in equality and unity with deep respect and honour for each other? How might that level of respect and practical love impact family life? How is 'bitterness' resolved? What arguments arise over children? What might provoke or discourage your children? What support do you think a family needs today? Does the Word of God dwell richly in your home? How do you build singing, joy and thanksgiving into the way you pray and show gratitude to God in daily life?
- ❖ Christmas celebrates the fruit of Mary and Joseph's trust in God. They sacrificed greatly to raise Jesus. As Pope Francis says, "*Ambiguity, uncertainty, and brokenness touched the Holy Family. Their lives teach us that we cannot understand God's designs. This wonderful lesson urges parents to put their families in God's hands and trust that their efforts will bear fruit.*" How does your family respond to struggles? How does that impact your life?
- ❖ Faithful parents are examples for us – single or married. How can you put yourself more fully in God's hands? Jesus and Mary offered the sacrifice of the poor: two doves. What simple sacrifices do you offer God? Are there older members of your community who contribute wisdom and spiritual support? How did Simeon and Anna live this out? How might you honour these elders?

A NEW YEAR'S DAY REFLECTION

When, in the fullness of time, God became man, He did not come swooping down into the world from heaven on high. He was born of Mary. He was not born *to* a woman but *of* a woman. This is essentially different – it means that God wanted to take on flesh from her. He did not use her, but asked for her "yes", for her consent. And so, with her began the slow journey of the gestation of a humanity free from sin and filled with grace and truth, filled with love and faithfulness. A beautiful, good and true humanity, made in the image and likeness of God but, at the same time, woven with our flesh offered by Mary ... never without her ... always with her consent ... in freedom, gratuitously, respectfully, in love.

This is *the way* God chose to enter into the world and into our history. This way is essential, as essential as the very fact that He came. The divine motherhood of Mary is the way that reveals God's utmost respect for our freedom. He who created us without us did not want to save us without us (cf. S. Agostino, *Sermon CLXIX*, 13).

The way He chose to come to save us is the way on which He also invites us to follow him so as to continue to weave humanity – new, free, reconciled – together with him. It is a style, a way of relating to us, from which derives the multiplicity of human virtues of good and dignified living together. One of these virtues is *kindness*.

Kindness is an important aspect of the culture of dialogue, and dialogue is indispensable to live in peace, to live as brothers and sisters, who do not always agree, but who, nevertheless, speak to each other, listen to each other and try to understand each other and to move toward one another. Kindness is a benevolent attitude that sustains and comforts others and avoids any form of roughness and harshness. It is a way of treating one's neighbour, taking care not to be hurtful through words or actions; trying to lighten others' burdens, to encourage, to comfort, to console (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 223).

Let us be amazed by God's choice, who could have come into the world in a thousand ways manifesting his power. Instead, God willed to be conceived in full freedom in Mary's womb, wanted to be formed for nine months like every baby and, in the end, to be born of her, to be born of a woman. Let us not pass over this quickly. Let us pause to contemplate and meditate because there is an essential characteristic of the mystery of salvation here. Let us try to learn God's "method", his infinite respect, his "kindness" so to speak, because the way for a more human world is found in the divine motherhood of the Virgin, in the kindness of God.

Homily of Pope Francis 31/12/2022



CALENDAR

Monday

January 1
Mary, Holy
Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday

January 2
Sts. Basil the
Great and Gregory
Nazianzen, Bishops
and Doctors
of the Church
1 Jn 2:22-28
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday

January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton, Religious
1 Jn 3:7-10
Jn 1:35-42

Friday

January 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 3:11-21
Jn 1:43-51

Saturday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-38 or
3:23, 31-34, 36,
38

Sunday

January 7
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Schedule for New Year 2024

Sunday, 31st December 2023 (New Year's Eve)

10:00 am. **ENGLISH MASS**

9:30 pm. *Eucharistic Adoration*

10:00 pm. *Thai Mass*

Monday, 1st January 2024 (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

9:00 am. *Thai Mass*

11:00 am. **ENGLISH MASS**



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you a Merry Christmas! We wish you a Merry Christmas!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Good tidings to you, wherever you are.

Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

We wish you a Merry Christmas! We wish you a Merry Christmas!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Good tidings we bring, to you and your kin.

Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year!

We wish you a Merry Christmas! We wish you a Merry Christmas!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

We wish you a Merry Christmas! We wish you a Merry Christmas!

And a happy, happy New Year!

a happy New Year!

a happy New Year!



ASSUMPTION CATHEDRAL

23 Oriental Avenue (Charoenkrung Soi 40)
Bangrak, Bangkok 10500
Thailand
Tel: 0-2234-4592, 0-2234-8556, 0-2233-7120
Fax: 0-2234-3414

PASTOR:

Rev. Ignatius Adisak Somsaengsuang

ASSISTANTS:

Rev. Peter Booncharat Suksawang
Rev. Peter Withawat Kaewwaen

MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon-Fri : Thai 06:00 hrs.
Sat : Thai 06:00; 17:00 novena followed by
mass
Sun : Thai 07:00; 08:30 and 17:00 hrs.
English 10:00 hrs.

BAPTISM:

Thai : **First Sunday** during 8:30 am mass.
English : **Second Sunday** during 10:00 am
mass.

CONFESSION:

Sundays : Before all masses (Thai).
English before 10:00 am mass.

CATHOLIC CENTER:

For religious articles, please visit the center opposite
the entrance of the Cathedral.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri : 08:30 – 17:00 hrs.
Sat, Sun : Closed
& public holidays

Dear Padre

December 31, 2023

How much should we support our adult children? We have a niece and a daughter who are both healthy, capable, and in their twenties. We have set boundaries and continue to give to them but they just can't seem to get their act together. Would it be unchristian to cut them off?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes in detail the duties of family members toward each other (CCC 2214-33). Parents are responsible to ensure that their children grow up in faith and to meet their basic needs. Children should show respect toward their parents and, as they grow older, assist them as needed. As children become adults, they should take on responsibility for themselves and parents are not to pressure them into choices of a profession or a spouse, while at the same time, "giving their children judicious advice..." (CCC 2230). At some point, children need to become responsible adults, which brings us to your point.

You seem to have done what is required as parents. At the same time, you would not want to abandon young adults if physical, mental, or emotional factors prevent them from assuming the responsibility of adulthood. If they are healthy, capable young people they should be able to progress in life without your financial assistance. To help them toward this goal, you may want to set very specific limits, perhaps with the help of a counselor, and then consistently follow those limits. ●

Fr. John K. Schmidt, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full, are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

DOXOLOGY PLEASE STAND

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN

Amen. Amen. Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (No. 387)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil; graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (Repeat)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. **PLEASE KNEEL**

Priest: 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: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (No. 446)

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY (No. 445)

FINAL: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (No. 428) PLEASE STAND

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS (Please turn to inside cover)

Feast of the Holy Family (Year B)

Sunday, 31 December 2023

ENTRANCE: ANGELS FROM THE REAMS OF GLORY (No. 436) PLEASE STAND

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Priest: I confess to almighty God,

All: and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;

– and, striking their breast, they say –

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

KYRIE, ELEISON / LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kýrie, eléison, (2); Christe, eléison, (2); Kýrie, eléison, (2).

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain: Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, on earth peace to people of good will.

1. 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.
2. 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, the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
3. 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. (R)

FIRST READING: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

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.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 105: THE LORD REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT FOR EVER



R. The Lord re - mem - bers his cov - e - nant for ev - er.

1. 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)
2. Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD! Look to the LORD in his strength; constantly seek his face. (R)
3. 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)
4. 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)

SECOND READING: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

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.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA PLEASE STAND

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (Repeat)

**All: In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.**

GOSPEL: Lk 2:22-40

Priest: The Lord be with you.

Priest: A reading from the Good News according to Luke.

All: And with your spirit.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

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.

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

THE APOSTLES' CREED PLEASE STAND

Priest: I believe in God,

All: the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:
"Gracious God, hear our prayer."**

PLEASE BE SEATED

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY: NATIVITY CAROL (No. 432)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

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.