



December 27th

Holy Family

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray: Father, help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. Grant this...

FIRST READING

(The author of Ecclesiasticus speaks of good family relationships. The children who respect and obey their parents are in fact giving glory to God and storing up spiritual treasures for themselves.)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (3:2-6,12-14)

The Lord honoured the father above the children, and he confirmed the right of the mother over her sons. Whoever honours his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honours his father will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother. O son, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you. This is the Word of the Lord

PSALM (127)

Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. R./

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. R./

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! R./

SECOND READING

(St Paul encourages the Colossians to persevere in the true faith based on the solid foundation of Christ's divinity and to keep on living a true Christian life.)

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians (3:12-21)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

This is the Word of the Lord

ACCLAMATION (Col 3:15-16)

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(In today's Gospel episode St Luke narrates how the boy Jesus permits Mary and Joseph to grieve over his loss in the Temple to prepare them, especially his Mother, for greater sorrows that are to come.)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke (2:41-52)

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And 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 increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord