

December 26, 2010  
The Holy Family (A)

FIRST READING

Sirach 3:2-6

A reading from the book of Sirach

Children, the LORD expects you to honor your father,  
and has given your mother authority over you.

If you honor your father,  
your sins will be forgiven.  
If you praise your mother,  
treasure will be stored up in heaven for you.

If you honor your father,  
your own children will make you happy,  
and all of your prayers will be answered.  
If you respect your father,  
you will live long life,  
and if you listen to the LORD,  
your mother can relax.

The word of the Lord.

December 26, 2010  
The Holy Family (A)

Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5*

*All: Happy are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways.*

*The LORD will bless you  
if you respect him  
and obey his laws.  
Your fields will produce,  
and you will be happy  
and all will go well.*

*All: Happy are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways.*

*Your wife will be as fruitful  
as a grapevine,  
and just as an olive tree  
is rich with olives,  
your home will be rich  
with healthy children.*

*All: Happy are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways.*

*That is how the LORD will bless  
everyone who respects him.  
I pray that the LORD  
will bless you from Zion  
and let Jerusalem prosper  
as long as you live.*

*All: Happy are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways.*

December 26, 2010  
The Holy Family (A)

**SECOND READING**

Colossians 3:12-17

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians**

Brothers and sisters:

God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people.  
So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient.

Put up with each other,  
and forgive anyone who does you wrong,  
just as Christ has forgiven you.  
Love is more important than anything else.  
It is what ties everything completely together.

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ,  
and you were chosen to live together in peace.  
So let the peace that comes from Christ  
control your thoughts.  
And be grateful.

Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives,  
while you use all your wisdom  
to teach and instruct each other.  
With thankful hearts,  
sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.  
Whatever you say or do should be done  
in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
as you give thanks to God the Father because of him.

**The word of the Lord.**

December 26, 2010  
The Holy Family (A)

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

An angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."

That night Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt."

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead."

Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth.

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of the Lord.