

St. Mary of the Angels PSR Newsletter

December 26, 2021

There will be no class January 2nd for Christmas break. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas. Don't forget... Jesus is the reason for, well, everything!

If your family would like to provide snacks, please let me know and I will get you scheduled. Thanks!

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION PARENTS: If a Candidate misses over 4 classes, they will need to be made up before Confirmation in May. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday May 22nd at 8 am Mass.

CONFIRMATION Those Confirmation students need to be researching Saints. They will need to pick their favorite and that Saint's name will be their Confirmation name.**

In case you missed the Mustard Seed this morning, it is as follows.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. God Loved us, his people so much he wanted to reveal himself to us so we could understand him. God is so much more than our human brains can comprehend, if we saw him in all his Glory we would be overwhelmed. He came to us as a humble baby in a very humble setting to humble parents. Babies are innocent and pure... they are not pompous nor full of themselves as some adults. They are vulnerable and need protection from their parents.

God could have chosen any parents for his only begotten son. He could have chosen wealthy parents, or even royalty, but he chose a young girl who was betrothed to a honest, hardworking carpenter. He chose parents who had to sacrifice to make ends meet. The Holy Family is the perfect example for all families to follow. We know Mary was conceived perfect and without sin, which stands to reason as she was chosen to be the "Mother of God". Joseph was born with the stain of original sin just as you and I, but he was humble and obedient to God's word.

Mary and Joseph didn't have things easy just because they were raising the Son of God. We must stop and think how it was for them living in a small town. We know how small town life is, everyone knows everybody's business and they want to talk about it. Just imagine how some must have treated them... a young girl not yet married is pregnant. Mary knew she was still a virgin and this was God's child, but no one else knew, nor would they believe. We know Joseph was planning to divorce her since he knew it wasn't his child. We are told that he is a noble man and was going to do it quietly to spare all the dignity he could for Mary. The Archangel Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him this was God's son and Joseph was to take Mary into his home and raise this child as his own. When Joseph took Mary as his wife, we can only imagine what the town people said. For them, this was proof the child was Joseph's and they had relations before marriage. Joseph probably lost business over this. Thankfully Joseph and Mary were obedient to God's word even though it created many hardships for them.

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem in order to comply with the law though Mary was at the end of her pregnancy. Imagine what a failure Joseph probably felt like since he couldn't even find a decent place to stay the night. The only place he could find was the very humble shelter meant for animals and they had no place to lay the newborn baby but a manger... the place where the animals fed. Any good parent wants the best they can provide for their children and it was no different for Joseph.

Imagine the astonishment Mary and Joseph must have felt when they were visited by shepherds and later the astronomers known as Wiseman. Though they knew this was God's son, nothing could have prepared them for the things that were told to them by the Shepherds who were greeted by angels and the Wiseman who had been watching this star which they followed. Then there were the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Joseph was warned in a dream by the Archangel Gabriel to not return to their home, but take up exile in a land foreign to them. This had to be hard for Mary and Joseph to deal with, especially Joseph since he was chosen as the protector of God's son, who is both Man and God, as well as the Mother of God.

We know Joseph obediently followed God's will while Loving and respecting Mary, as well as caring for the son of God. There was nothing Joseph wouldn't do for Mary and Jesus. We are also told in the Gospel Mary "kept all these things in her heart."

In the Gospel today we hear the story when Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. After the festival, they set off for home in the caravan and thought Jesus was with them among the relatives. When they couldn't find him, they went back and found him in the temple after three days. Jesus tells his parents the famous line, "why were you looking for me? Did you not know I must be in my father's house?" Jesus went back to Nazareth and was obedient to his parents.

God gave us his Holy family as a model for our own families. I look at the current state of our families and wonder why we are not following this model. There are parents and or children abusing their family physically, verbally, and emotionally. There are spouses who have no respect for the person they promised in front of God and everyone to Love and support till death do they part. There are parents who instead of sacrificing to take care of the needs of their children and their spouse, they only think of their own wants and wreck the entire family structure by committing adultery. There is a reason God gave us the Ten Commandments and there is a reason one forbids adultery.

Let us pray that people start repenting and turning back to Jesus and restoring that Grace through Reconciliation. We pray that families turn to the Holy family as a guide for their own families. We pray that Love and respect returns to our families, that parents sacrifice for the NEEDS of their children just as Mary and Joseph. We pray that children love and respect their parents and become obedient to them just as Jesus was to Mary and Joseph.

Whatever God is calling us to, we should accept it with hearts full of Love and compassion.

Holy Family, pray for us!