

December 29, 2019

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Seek God and receive His blessings!

Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14

Psalms 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matt 2:13-15, 19-23

In the first reading the wisdom of Sirach gives children important guiding principles in treating parents. Honor them, comfort them, be considerate, kind, and act always with reverence towards them. This kind of human kindness will bring long life and the joy of children.

The Psalmist emphasizes walking in the ways of the Lord and fear of Him. This brings blessings, happiness, and even prosperity. Wives will be fruitful and children sturdy as olive plants. To fear the Lord is to live a way of life that puts God above everything else.

In the second reading Paul identifies the faithful as holy and beloved who are to clothe themselves with **mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience**. They are to forgive grievances, bear with one another, cultivate peace in their hearts and act always in the name of Jesus. Adding love, the highest of virtues, to all of this brings perfection.

The Gospel tells us of the angelic guidance Joseph received in protecting Mary and the child Jesus. It was necessary for the holy family to spend some time in Egypt before returning to Nazareth in Israel. All these locations were prophesied in the Old Testament and then fulfilled.



The Father is the source of unimaginable power,
Yet the Son came as a helpless infant;
The Holy Spirit sent the angels for his announced birth.

All that was prophesied for the Messiah came to pass and the holy family received the guidance and protection they needed so that Jesus would have a safe place to grow up. Now we have love and forgiveness from Him and are asked to let peace reign in our hearts. Be forgiving of all grievances and put the perfection of love to work in all of your acts and be merciful, humble, patient, and meek!

Meditate on These Virtues

Mercy is a term used to describe the leniency or compassion shown by one person to another, or a request from one person to another to be shown such leniency or compassion. The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Talmud claims that "deeds of **kindness** are equal in weight to all the commandments." Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns. ~Author Unknown

Humility is derived from the Latin word "humilis", which means low, humble, from earth. A humble person is generally thought to be unpretentious and modest: someone who does not think that he or she is better or more important than others. Someone noted that if you are going to look down at someone let it be because you are helping them up.

Patience is the ability to endure waiting, delay, or provocation without becoming annoyed or upset, or to persevere calmly when faced with difficulties. "Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. Do not now seek answers, which cannot be given to you because you would not be able to live them and the point is to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live everything." ~Rainier Maria Rilke

Meekness is the feeling of patient submissive humbleness; a disposition to be patient and long suffering. It is a fruit of the Spirit.

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