

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 26, 2010

Over all [other virtues] put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

— Colossians 3:14

SALVATION IN DAILY LIFE

This Sunday is the feast of the Holy Family, which comes on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. Today's feast celebrates how the humanity of Jesus (including his entire family life) has brought saving significance into the daily rhythms of our human family life.

The scriptures offer instruction and encouragement on how to share—within our families, parish families, and the wider human family—the love that God shares with us in Jesus. Selections from Sirach, Psalm 128, and Colossians encourage us to reflect divine love and thus find holiness in all our human relationships. The reading from Matthew's Gospel offers a living example of love in the actions Joseph took to protect his young family from danger and to nurture them within the larger family of faith of their time. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



Sunday and Weekday Mass Readings

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor and comfort their parents shall never be forgotten (Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14).

Psalms — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128).

Second Reading — You are called into one body: Bear with one another; forgive one another; let Christ's peace control you (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]).

Gospel — Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and fled to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

FEAST OF FAITH — Processions

Why does the liturgy begin with a procession? It is not just a practical matter of getting the ministers of the liturgy from the sacristy to the sanctuary. The procession is a powerful sign of who we are as Christian people. We are not static, staying in one place. We are going somewhere. Our procession leads us to the altar, sign of Christ's presence in our midst. We move, we process, because we recognize our need for what Christ is preparing for us at that table. We go forward eagerly, because we are hungry for that heavenly food.

This procession is an orderly one: servers, deacon, priest presider. Each is set apart by distinctive vesture: albs for the altar servers, dalmatic for the deacon, chasuble for the priest. The procession is an image of the hierarchical structure of the Church. On a deeper level it is an image of unity in diversity. We are all on a journey to the heavenly city, but each of us is clothed with different gifts. We all receive the call to service, but not in the same way. Only by coming together in all our wonderful variety can we achieve the work of the kingdom.

—Corinna Laughlin, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

I think we all sin by needlessly disobeying the apostolic injunction to "rejoice" as much as by anything else. — C.S. Lewis

This Week in the Life of the Church

Being a compendium of feast days and notable events in Church history.

Sunday, December 26, 2010

✚ **We Remember:** An account of the death of **ST. STEPHEN**, first Christian martyr, is found in the **Acts of the Apostles (7:55-60)**. A deacon in the early church, Stephen had been assigned by the apostles to distribute food to the poor. He worked great signs and wonders among the people. His wisdom confounded those who sought to argue with him, and ultimately false charges were brought against him, and he was stoned to death. One of the witnesses to his death was **Saul** - the future Apostle Paul. (D,S)



Monday, December 27, 2010

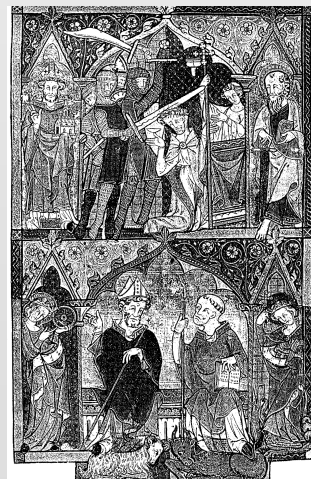
✚ **We Remember:** **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST (died c. 100)**, "the disciple whom Jesus loved," had been a disciple of St. John the Baptist, but then he followed Christ, together with Andrew, the brother of Peter. John was usually invited, along with Peter and James, to share in some of the more significant events in the life of Christ. He preached the gospel in Samaria with Peter, and according to legend he preached also at Antioch and later at Ephesus, where his tomb is venerated. He visited Rome but was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Previously he had written his gospel and three letters. He died at Patmos towards the end of the **1st century**. (D,S)

Tuesday, December 28, 2010

✚ **We Remember:** **FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS:** The biblical basis for this feast is found in **Matthew 2:13-18**. It commemorates the infant boys slain by Herod's soldiers while seeking to kill the Infant Jesus. This feast has been observed since the **5th century**. (D,S)

Wednesday, December 29, 2010

✚ **We Remember:** **ST. THOMAS BECKET (1118-1170)**, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered in the cathedral on this day, **Dec. 29**, in **1170**. He was canonized three years later. Thomas was born in London, studied at Paris and Auxerre, and was promoted to the office of chancellor under King Henry II. He was ordained priest and bishop in **1162** and was the first person in England to celebrate the solemnity of the Blessed Trinity. He became more ascetical after becoming archbishop, and his relationship with the king deteriorated. Becket refused to sign a document that severely limited the rights of the Church, and was abandoned by the bishops who wanted to maintain good relations with the king. He spent six years in exile in France. The pope, **Alexander II**, helped effect a reconciliation, and Becket returned to England, but the implacable hatred of his foes reached the point at which Becket was murdered by four knights at the altar of the Blessed Virgin and St. Benedict in Canterbury Cathedral. His shrine became a place of pilgrimage and he was one of the great saints of the Middle Ages. (S,D)



Thursday, December 30, 2010

✠ **We Remember: ST. ANYSIA (c. 304)**, a Christian girl living in Thessalonica, received a wealthy estate left to her by deceased parents. She used much of the money taking care of the poor. She was martyred during the reign of Maximian Galerius while on her way to an assembly of the faithful, which were banned. Stopped by a guard, she professed her faith in Christ, and was stabbed with a sword. (D)

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31, 2010

✠ **We Remember: ST. SYLVESTER:** This early pope was an important figure in the period after Constantine granted toleration of Christianity through the Edict of Milan. Sylvester has representatives at the **First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea** in 325. He oversaw the building of the first St. Peter's Basilica as well as St. John Lateran. The claim that he received lands from Constantine (the "Donation") in thanksgiving for a miracle has no factual basis. He is the first saint who was not a martyr to be venerated by the Church. His relics are preserved in the Church of St. Sylvester in Rome. (D,E,S,B) ✠ In 1384, the death of **John Wycliffe**, philosopher, theologian and reformer. Educated at Oxford, he looked to the Bible and the fathers of the church in his writings, but his teaching on the Eucharist brought a condemnation of heresy. An energetic preacher, he inspired many followers who continued his teaching (taking popular expression in the Lollards) and his project of a Bible translation was seen through by his disciples. (F)

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2011

✠ **We Remember: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;** New Year's Day; World Day of Peace. *"But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother..." (Gal. 4:4).* The early Church replaced the pagan feast of the New Year, dedicated to the god Janus, with this feast honoring the Mother of God. Even before **Pope Sergius** introduced four Marian feasts in the 7th century (the **Birth of Mary**, the **Annunciation**, the **Purification** and the **Assumption**), the octave of Christmas was celebrated in Rome in honor of the Maternity of Mary. In later centuries, the feast of the **Circumcision of Our Lord** came to be observed Jan. 1, but the General Roman Calendar promulgated by **Pope Paul VI** on **Feb. 14, 1969**, reinstated the Marian character of this commemoration on the octave day of Christmas.

In his 1974 encyclical, **Marialis Cultus**, Pope Paul said that this celebration "is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the holy Mother...through whom we were found worthy...to receive the Author of life. It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewed adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace. For this reason...we have instituted **World Day of Peace**, an observance that is gaining increasing support and is already bringing forth fruits of peace in the hearts of many." (D,S)

• In 1189, the death of **BL. HENRY OF CLAIRVAUX**, a Cistercian abbot and cardinal who was active in both Church and state affairs. He was elected Pope but refused the honor. (W)

• In 1484, birth of **HULDRYCH ZWINGLI** at Wildhaus, in the Toggenburg valley of the canton of St. Gallen. Zwingli was the leader of the **Protestant reformation in Switzerland**; he died in 1531.

• In 1894, the birth of **Archbishop Edward Hunkeler** in Medicine Lodge, Kansas. He was ordained in 1919 and served as pastor at two parishes before being appointed pastor of Omaha's **Saint Cecilia Cathedral**. In 1945 Father Hunkeler was named bishop of Grand Island, Nebraska. After ably serving the people of Nebraska for 32 years, he was transferred as bishop to the diocese of Kansas City and when **Pope Pius XII** elevated Kansas City to an archdiocese in 1952, he named Bishop Hunkeler as its first archbishop, a post he held with distinction for the next 17 years. He resigned in 1969 at age 75, the year of his golden jubilee as a priest. (W) ✠ In 2001, two men attacked worshippers with machetes in a cathedral on the island of **St. Lucia**, setting them ablaze using gasoline and a blowtorch, and killing an Irish nun, **Sr. Theresa Egan**, 72. According to press reports, the two men, who identified themselves as Rastafarians, told the police that they had been sent by God to combat corruption in the Roman Catholic Church.

Sources include: (A) **Catholic Almanac**, Felician Foy Our Sunday Visitor, 1995. (AP) **A Pilgrim's Almanac**, Edward Hayes, 1992. (AS) **All Saints**, Robert Ellsberg, Crossroad, 1997. (B) **Book of Saints**, Benedictine Monks, Morehouse, 1993. (C) **Catholic Book of Days**, John Deedy, Thomas More, 1989. (D) **Day by Day with the Saints**, Patrick Moran, OSV, 1985. (E) **Encyclopedia of Catholicism**, Rev. R. McBrien, HC., 1995. (ES) **Encyclopedia of Saints**, C. Jöckle, Alpine, 1995. (F) **Famous Christians**, Tony Castle, Servant, 1988. (G) **Guide to the Saints**, Kristin E. White, Ivy Books, 1991. (L) **Butler's Lives of the Saints I-IV**, Christian Classics, 1995. (L2) **Lives of the Saints**, O. Englebert, Barnes & Noble, 1994. (LS) **Lives of the Saints**, R. McBrien, HC, 2001. (LP) **Lives of the Popes**, R. McBrien, 1997. (M) **The Middle Ages, Concise Encyclopedia**, H. Loyn, 1989. (OCY) **Oxford Companion to the Year**, Blackburn, 1999. (P) **Pocket Dictionary of Saints**, John Delaney, Image, 1983. (S) **Saints of the Roman Calendar**, Enzo Lodi, Alba, 1992. (P) **The Popes**, Eric John, Roman Catholic Books, 1994. (V) **Vatican II Weekday Missal**, Daughters of St. Paul, 1975. (W) **We Celebrate, We Commemorate**, Patrick Walsh.

This Week in the Life of the Church is compiled by Mike Brennan and provided free by the Chicago Airports Catholic Chaplaincy, P.O. Box 66353, Chicago, IL 60666-0353. Phone: 773/686-2636. Web: www.airportchapels.org. Tax-deductible contributions to the **Chicago Airports Catholic Chaplaincy** are welcome. E-mail: ordchapel@gmail.com.

POWER MAD

By all accounts King Herod was a nasty piece of work. He became the ruler of the province of Judea under the Roman occupation. He set up a functioning bureaucracy, built a new port at Caesarea, and reconstructed the temple in Jerusalem. However, intent on maintaining his own power, he put allegiance to Rome above everything else and executed, murdered, or banished anyone who got in his way, including his own family. He placed a Roman eagle over the main temple entrance and, not being a Jew himself, he frequently broke the laws of Moses. This enraged Jewish religious leaders, but what burdened the people as a whole was a system of excessive taxation, extorted by tax collectors who added their own "fees" on top of the required amount. Only Matthew's Gospel tells us the story of the Holy Family who, warned of Herod's plot to kill all baby boys in Bethlehem, went to Egypt to escape—a long, hard journey of over two hundred fifty miles.

Without much effort we can pinpoint so-called leaders and heads of state in our world today who behave as disgracefully as Herod, raining down violence on their own people. There are over fourteen million refugees around the globe right now: men, women, and children who have fled their homelands to escape brutal atrocities. The majority of them live in camps or restricted areas in their host countries, where conditions foster disease and survival depends on aid agencies. After Herod died the Holy Family came out of Egypt and settled in Nazareth, where Jesus grew to manhood and learned the skills of a carpenter. Many of today's refugees have no immediate hope of returning home. On this feast, let us be grateful for our families and consider how to help those torn from their homes by war and bloodshed.



To find out more about refugees and ways to offer practical help, contact **Jesuit Refugee Services** or **Catholic Relief Services**. Pray for all refugees and prisoners of conscience. Copyright (c) 2010, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.



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Launceston	<u>NETHERLANDS/</u>	London/Luton
Melbourne	<u>Holland</u>	London/Stansted
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Sydney- International	<u>NEW ZEALAND</u>	Newcastle
Perth-Jandakot	Auckland	Sheffield
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Milan/Malpensa	Durham-Teesside	Lusaka
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Torino	Edinburgh-Scotland	
<u>KENYA</u>	Glasgow	
Mombassa	Guemsey Channel Islands	
Eldoret	Humberside	
Nairobi-Jomo Kenyatta	Jersey/Channel Islands	

O'Hare Chapel Catholic Mass Intentions

• denotes living/special intention † denotes deceased/memorial

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Christmas December 25, 2010</i>	<i>Requested By:</i>
6:30 a.m.	† Jerome Hochstatter	<i>Patricia Jones Family</i>
9:00 a.m.	† Charlene Rybka	<i>Mr. & Mrs. John Schneider Family</i>
11:00 a.m.	† Alan Stuepfert	<i>Mr. & Mrs. John Schneider</i>
1:00 p.m.	† Kipp Johnson	<i>Brenda Barkman</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>December 26, 2010</i>	
6:30 a.m.	† James J. Ulman	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sullivan</i>
9:00 a.m.	† Jay William Fitzgerald	<i>Brenda & Steve Barkman</i>
11:00 a.m.	† Edman Lis	<i>Rita Lis</i>
1:00 p.m.	• Tommy O'Kare	<i>Carmel O'Kane</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>December 27, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	† Michael J. Grimes III	<i>Jo Ann Pantages</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>December 28, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	• Joan Strzyz	<i>Dr. James Strzyz</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>December 29, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	• Regina Gatta	<i>Orfeo & Aida Zaniolo</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>December 30, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	† Margaret O'Hara	<i>Phyllis & Ed Louis</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>December 31, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	† Edward J. Shea	<i>Peggy Ann Smart</i>

Midway Chapel Catholic Mass Intentions

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Christmas December 25, 2010</i>	<i>Requested By:</i>
7:00 a.m.	† Betty Green	<i>Mr. & Mrs. John Schneider</i>
9:00 a.m.	• Fuss Family	<i>Ruth Fuss</i>
11:00 a.m.	• Zabicki/Bradley Intentions	<i>Steven A. Zabicki, Jr.</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>December 26, 2010</i>	
7:00 a.m.	• Chicago Dept. of Aviation Staff	
9:00 a.m.	• Zaniolo Family	<i>Ruth Fuss</i>
11:00 a.m.	• Chicago Firefighters	
<i>Monday</i>	<i>December 27, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	† Fr. Wacław Jamroz	
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>December 28, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	• Airline Pilots	
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>December 29, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	† Deirdre Coyle	
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>December 30, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	• Ramp Workers	
<i>Friday</i>	<i>December 31, 2010</i>	
11:30 a.m.	† Tom Williams	