

**January 12th, A.D. 2014**  
**The Feast of the Holy Family**  
**( The First Sunday After Epiphany )**

**Meditation**

*The Gospel according to St. Luke; Chapter II, Verses 41 - 52*  
*Epistle for the Feast of the Holy Family; Colosians: Ch. 3, Vss. 12 -17*

**( 1928 Book of Common Prayer, Pages 110 - 111 )**  
**( People's Anglican Missal, Pages A 41 – A 42 & D3 - D4 )**



*“ Christ in the Temple ” by Heinrich Hoffmann*

*“ O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee ; grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to do the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. “*  
*- The Collect for The First Sunday after The Epiphany .*

2.)

**Upon leaving Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph lose Jesus. After three days they find Him in the temple teaching the teachers. He returns to Nazareth and is subject to them.**

### **SUBJECT UNTO THEM**

We might hesitate to try to get into Mary's heart and head during those three days of separation. With all her faith and obedience to the Will of God, she is still after all, very human... and a mother. The pain of losing her Son is so heavy and great ( *The Church has declared it as the third of Mary's Seven Great Sorrows*); that for the first and only time in her life she complains: “ *Why hast Thou thus dealt with us ? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.* ”

We would imagine that Jesus' answer probably didn't help her much.; “ *How is it that ye sought me? Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?* ” They do not understand His words, not at that time anyway. But Scripture tells us that Blessed Mary kept all these words carefully in her heart. She knew they had great meaning, and they would be revealed to her at a time of God's choosing. In today's Gospel account, Jesus is twelve years old. The years will pass. Understanding will come when Mary will stand beneath the Cross looking up at her Son, and will say to herself: “ This is what you meant that day in the temple. This is what your Father's business is.” And, of course, the fullness of that vision of what His Father's business was will come to her when Jesus appears to her on the morning of His glorious resurrection. Then she will understand everything.

Before we get ahead of ourselves, let us remember that today we are observing *The Feast of the Holy Family*, and the Church wants us to think more about the thirty years of the life of Christ as He lived together with Mary and Joseph in Nazareth than about the three days of His separation from them when He was twelve.

St. Luke, in today's Gospel account, tells us that Jesus went down with His parents and came to Nazareth, and that He “*was subject unto them*”. He, Who as the Son of God...created them, but he also created the wood that He would form under Joseph's tuition at the shop into chairs, doors, etc. So too, the food He would eat with them, and the water He would carry - all created by Him, the Son of God...the Second Person in the Holy Trinity. He, the Son, *was subject unto them...in obedience*. Through His obedience, He learns and experiences fully and willingly *His humanity*. *He shares in OUR HUMANITY*.

The young Jesus will pass the years with Mary and Joseph. He will live with them, He will work with them, and He will pray with them. He will grow up, and they will grow old; and all three of them will grow towards that great climax of the Father's business, *the Cross*. Jesus willingly and lovingly shares in our humanity, so that we can share in *His Divinity*.

### **Show Ourselves Thankful**

Jesus, who is God, is subject to His creatures ( Mary & Joseph) in order to show us how we must live in our families, our parishes, our schools, towns, and if called...religious houses. To be subject to one another means to be *selfless* instead of *selfish*. To put one's life at the service of the common good. Through St. Paul in today's Epistle, (*Col; Ch. 3, Vss. 12 – 17*) we are given details of family living that our Lord Himself practiced at Nazareth. We are instructed to: “ *Put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering ; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any ... And*

3.)

*above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness ... and be ye thankful, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ( that is the purpose of these meditations, to make the Word and the Word made Flesh ; Jesus Christ, dwell in us more abundantly) ... And whatsoever ye do, in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Today's Gospel and Epistle gives us the example of family living. More than that, in this feast we receive the grace to carry the example of the Holy Family into our lives. This means that our Blessed Lord Jesus, is not only subject to Joseph and Mary...but also to us! At any time, Jesus, because of His unlimited love for humanity, will come to us and be subject to us : and we can bring Christ into the family life in which each of our personal vocations place us. All we have to do is to *seek Jesus* ... just as Mary and Joseph did ... and to keep His words, the words of these gospels carefully in our hearts.

Come, Lord Jesus, we humbly entreat ... He will do the rest.

**Prayer for the Day:** *Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace.*

*The Perfect Way is hard to flesh,  
it is not hard to love;  
If thou wert sick for want of God  
How swiftly would'st thou move!*

*Be docile to thine unseen Guide,  
Love Him as He loves thee;  
Time and obedience are enough,  
And thou a saint shall be.*

- Fr. Faber, ( 19<sup>th</sup> cent.)



**The Holy Family**

---

4.)

### **A short Prayer for the Week**

**O** Lord Jesus Christ, Who when Thou wast subject to Mary and Joseph didst sanctify home life with ineffable virtues: grant that by their assistance, we may be instructed by the example of Thy holy family and become partakers of their eternal happiness.

- - - *The Roman Missal, Collect for the Feast of the Holy Family. ( 20<sup>th</sup> century )*



## **Feasts and Fasts**

# **The Feast of the Holy Family**

Devotion to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, was not unknown in the late Middle ages, but it's safe to say it wasn't universally observed throughout the Church. Devotion to the united Holy Family, an expression of Counter-Reformation piety, achieved a widespread popularity from the seventeenth century onwards. St. Francis de Sales ( 1567 – 1622), co-founder of the Order of the Visitation, wrote that the three persons of the Holy Family were the earthly counterpart of the heavenly Trinity. This concept influenced the composition of the painting; *The Two Trinities*, painted in 1670 by Bartolome Esteban Murillo ( 1617 – 1688), which is based on the intersection of two triangles, the symbols of the Trinity, with Jesus as the nexus ( *the tie or link*) between the inverted upper one, containing God, the Father and the Holy Ghost, and the ground-based lower one where the lines enclose Mary and Joseph, protector of the divine Child. ( *see picture below*).

As the model for the Christian family, the devotion was fostered by the Jesuits and by the Society of St. Sulpice, a congregation of secular priests founded in 1642 in Paris. The cult was encouraged in French-Speaking Canada in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and spread through the rest of North America via French missionaries and emigrating Catholics. It was developed in the industrial regions of France and Belgium in the nineteenth century as movements of populations threatened the break up of family life. Anglo-Catholic clergy in England, working primarily in the London slums under the same conditions as their Roman Catholic counterparts on the Continent, also recognized the importance the Holy Family could serve as examples to their own people. Societies in both Churches were instituted, and in 1847 in the Roman Catholic church, given encouragement by Pope Pius IX, and also in 1892 by Pope Leo XIII. These pious associations were rewarded in 1921 when Pope Benedict XV formally instituted the universal feast of the Holy Family, to be kept on the First Sunday After Epiphany. The Missals of both the Roman Catholic (Latin) and Anglo-Catholic (Anglican) rites officially observe this feast.

Appropriate to this day, although the event happened during the great Passover pilgrimage, is the very human story of Joseph and Mary anxiously returning to Jerusalem to search for Jesus when they could not find Him among their kinfolk and neighbors as they made their way home to Nazareth. They discovered Him in one of the colonnaded courts of the Temple, addressing the doctors of the Law and astonishing them with His knowledge of the Scriptures. Then twelve years old, Jesus was actually a year younger than it was considered fitting for a boy to read from the scroll of the Law, which He was

5.)

allowed to do publicly at His *bar miswah*, proof that he had attained manhood. There are alternate translations of Mary's relieved yet reproachful; “ *Why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been looking for you!*” One version of Jesus' reply reads: “ *Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?*” which is in accord with the location of the incident. The other; “ *that I must be about my Father's business*”, is a statement of His Divine Mission. His returning with Joseph and Mary to Nazareth and remaining with them and being; “ *subject unto them* “ ( *Luke; Ch: 2, Vs. 51*), until His baptism is proof of mutual love and the stability of the family.



**The Two Trinities by Bartolome Esteban Murillo ( 1670 )**

The great importance and value of the Feast of the Holy Family can not be lost in our own time. As 21<sup>st</sup> century Western society experiments with all sorts of re-arrangements of the natural family unit ( experiments which will in the end fail ), all, not just Christians, would do well to follow the example set by the Holy Family as a guide to holy, right, and moral living. Jesus, during His public ministry assures us: “ *In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world.*” ( *St. John; Chap. 16, Vs. 33*). Let us take heart from His words, and live by His example.



*Excerpted from: The Chipmunk's Nutshell Library; by Br. A. Chip Monk, O.S.B.*

---

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory  
4 Shaw Road  
Raymond, Maine 04071**

**PLEASE NOTE: PUBLIC SUNDAY MASSES WILL RESUME IN THE SPRING.  
CONVENTUAL MASSES ONLY FOR THE WINTER.**

**KALENDAR**

Holy days and Saints days for the week of January 12<sup>th</sup> to January 19<sup>th</sup> A.D. 2014 as observed at the Priory.

---

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> ... **The Feast of the Holy Family- - comm. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After the Epiphany (Note 1)**  
Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> ....**Octave Day of the Epiphany**..... comm. St. Kentigern, Bp. & C. ( 7<sup>th</sup> cent)  
Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> .....St. Hillary of Poitiers, Bp, Conf, & Doct. ( 4<sup>th</sup> cent.)  
Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> ...St. Maurus, Disciple of St. Benedict ( 5<sup>th</sup> cent.)..... comm. St. Paul, First Hermit c. 345  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> .....comm. Bl Joanna, Camaldolese lay sister, Italy , 12<sup>th</sup> cent. ( Holiness in simplicity)  
Friday, January, January 17<sup>th</sup> ....St. Anthony, Ab. ( 4<sup>th</sup> cent.)  
Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> .....St. Prisca, Myr. ( 3<sup>rd</sup> cent.) ...**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins: Jan. 18 - 25**  
**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> ...The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany**.....comm. St. Wulfstan Bp. of York & C. ( 11<sup>th</sup> cent.)

---

**KEY:** Ab. = Abbot, Ap. = Apostle, Bp. = Bishop, C. or Conf. = Confessor,  
Doct. = Doctor of the Church, M. = Monk, Myr. = Martyr, P= Priest Po. = Pope, Vir. = Virgin,

**NOTES:**

1. St. Benedict Biscop. Abbot of Wearmouth & Jarrow, England. Active in reconciling the Anglo-Saxon and Roman elements in the English Benedictine Order. 7th cent.
2. Fr. LaMarre will be celebrating Mass at St. Margaret's of Scotland Parish, ( 85 Pleasant St. ) Conway, N.H. On Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> ( The Second Sunday after Epiphany ) . Mass begins at 10: 00 a.m.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Pray and Work; " That they may all be one" ( St. John; Ch. 17, Vs. 21)**

7.)

## MISCELLENEA:

**SUBSCRIPTIONS;** If you know of anyone who would like to be on our e-mailing list to receive this weekly offering, please either feel free to copy and pass this along to them, or have them send us their e-mail address and we will gladly add it to our mailing list.

**CANDLES:** A Very sincere THANK YOU ! To all who have contributed to our candle fund ! Through your generosity, we have been able to purchase enough candles for use on the alter for 2014. May Almighty God reward you!

**THE ANIMALS:** We are always looking for benefactors to help us with the upkeep of the animals in our care. We are grateful for our animal angels as are our animals. If you would like to help, or know of someone who would. please send your donation to the address above marked "For the animals" Thank you !



**And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor  
before God and man.**