



December 26, 2010 • The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

It is hard for us to imagine the ruthlessness of King Herod. Today's Gospel passage omits the section in which Herod orders the massacre of all boys under two years of age in the vicinity of Bethlehem. Out of jealousy that a rival king had been born, Herod resorts to the worst kind of violence imaginable. That particular Gospel passage quotes Jeremiah the prophet:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more" (Matthew 2:18).

"Since they were no more." Each day across our planet children die of starvation, disease, and famine. We might be tempted to think that the day after Christmas is probably not the best time to bring this to mind. Or is it? The very fact that God became flesh and dwelt among us in the form of a tiny helpless child should give us pause to consider how our world treats children.

DEDICATION TO THE CHILDREN

For many of us, the Christmas season is a time focused on bringing happiness to our children. The delight in their eyes as they sing the carols, open their gifts, and share in the food and festivity makes all our hard work seem to be really worth it. We should rejoice that our efforts to bring them the joy of the season result in such happiness. However, the sad reality is that there are many children who struggle without the basic necessities of life. Why not take the time during this Christmas season to find out what you can do to help the poorest of the poor? Catholic Relief Services has an excellent Web site that contains all kinds of information about how we, as ordinary Catholics, can help bring relief to poor children. Access the Web site at <http://crs.org> to see if there is something you can do to help.

Today's Readings: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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The Church of St. John the Martyr

Church: 250 E. 72nd St., •Phone: 212-744-4880

Carmelite Priory and Mailing Address: 259 E. 71st St., New York, NY 10021

WEB: www.saintjohnthemartyr.com



SUNDAY MASSES: Sat. 5:30pm, Sun. 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 5:30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:30am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

SATURDAY MASSES: 9:00am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

CONFESSIONS: Saturday - 4:30pm to 5:00 pm

BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES: Kindly make arrangements at the Priory



Our Parish Personnel

Carmelite Friars:

Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm., Pastor
Fr. Sunny John, O.Carm, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Paul Feeley, O.Carm., Prior
Fr. Sunny Mathew, O.Carm., In Residence

Trustees:

Joseph Siracusano, Susan Trammell

Director Music Ministry:

Anne Holland

Secretary/Admin. Ass't.:

Susan Trammell

Custodian:

Michael Pineda

Schedule of Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday after Mass

Rosary: Daily at 12:00 Noon

Legion of Mary: Wed., 6:00 p.m. at the Rectory

Benediction: First Friday after 12:15 Mass

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

Today we are reminded of the Holy Family and the role of family in our lives. If you have children, you know that their upbringing is a huge responsibility, involving hard work, anxiety, and distress as well as moments of joy. You understand Mary and Joseph and the frantic search, as well as the mixture of immense relief and annoyance when they found Jesus. Maybe your own family is not that ideal family, but is somehow divided. Healing hurts begins in love. Perhaps one can bridge the distances with more contact, disagreements by sincere attempts to reconcile, and divorce—for all its pains and griefs—by learning to love again. The early Christians' *agape*, translated as "charity" in scripture, expresses a love greater than family love or sexual love; it is the love that God has for us and wants us to share. If we each become aware that God loves us as beloved children we can spread that love to the unloved in words, deeds, and attitude. Don't wait, start now!



Stewardship

"Continuing Our Journey Together"

1st Collection, 12/12/10: \$3,501.00

From ParishPay: \$1,307.00

Total 1st Collection, 12/05/10: \$4,808.00

Total 1st Collection, 12/13/09: \$4,221.00

Generous giving is an expression of our gratitude to God for our homes, our jobs, our families and friends. Thank you.

To sign-up for ParishPay please go to:
www.parishpay.com

New Year Weekend Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, Sat, Jan 1: 9:00AM and 12:15PM
5:30PM (Sunday Vigil)

Epiphany Sunday, January 2: 8:30AM, 10:30AM,
12:30PM, 5:30PM

Mass Intentions

Sat. December 25, 2010

5:30 p.m. (No Mass)

Sun. December 26, 2010

8:30 a.m. Francisco V. Zozobrado, Sr.

10:30 a.m. Stephen Nucatola

12:30 p.m. Mary O'Shea

5:30 p.m. Catherine & Beatrice Harlow

Mon. December 27, 2010

Tues. December 28, 2010

Wed. December 29, 2010

7:30 a.m. Frank Jordon

12:15 p.m. Hermann Regenhard

5:30 p.m. Raymond Brady

Thurs. December 30, 2010

7:30 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Brady

12:15 p.m. John M. Harlow

5:30 p.m. John M. Harlow

Fri. December 31, 2010

7:30 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. John M. Harlow

12:15 p.m. Martin and Eddie Farrell

5:30 p.m. John M. Attard

Sat. January 1, 2010

9:00 a.m. For our Parishioners

12:15 p.m. Leon Angibeau

5:30 p.m. Remedios Zozobrado



The Holy Family

December 26, 2010

Living Out The Family Mystery

Today St. Paul draws a beautiful description of how to live with other people: “Bear with one another,” he says. “Forgive whatever grievances you have against one another.... Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.... Sing gratefully to God from your hearts....” Sounds great—but are you thinking, “Are you kidding? Have you seen what family life is like out there?”

Well, it’s true we’re still living in the “Simpson’s Generation,” where parents are portrayed in the media as goofy, confused, or weak. Or we might think it’s impossible because we’ve grown used to a more unstructured view of family. It’s hard to “bear with one another,” forgive all grievances, and sing with gratitude to God, if you see family as a loose group of individuals who have no unified identity.

Our Catechism says: “The family is the original cell of social life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society.” (Sec. 2207) The stability stems from our one identity as the children of a God who loves us wildly, deeply and unconditionally. It requires that we listen to God and to each other for guidance and wisdom.

Joseph is the model of Christian listening in the gospel today. The root word for “listen” comes from the word for “obedience”. Joseph listened and obeyed in spite of terrible fear and doubt. He knew God loved him—so he trusted God’s counsel as part of a deeper life of trust. This is the kind of trust-full listening St. Paul is telling children, husbands, and wives they must have with each other—no bossiness or angry power plays. Christian obedience is simply our loving response to each other’s genuine needs.



**The Carmelite Friars
and
Our Parish Staff
wish a very
Happy New Year
to all of our Parishioners
and Visitors!**

*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son, and they shall call
his name Immanuel” (which
means, God with us).*

~Matthew 1:23

December Memorials

Sanctuary Lamp, Bread, Wine,
Altar Candles

In Memory of
George Rada

Donated by
Jacqueline Rada