

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 30, 2022

## Gospel: (Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23)

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled: Out of Egypt I called my son.

## Reflection:

As parents, Joseph and Mary, were not preserved from hardships. These simple parents surely had apprehensions as they traveled to Egypt. Yet they responded faithfully and obediently to God's messages. They trusted God's ways. We too all face challenges in responding to God faithfully and obediently. The holiness of a family is not dependent upon perfection or an easy road. Whether we are a traditional family or a single parent family, whether we have biological or adopted or foster children or no children, whether we live in an expensive home or a subsidized rental unit makes no difference for living as a holy family. What does make a difference is hearing God's messages and doing God's will. Trust in God's ways. You, too, are a holy family. (Living Liturgy, p.28)

## Vincentian Meditation:

In his faithful response to God's commands, Joseph also knew how to "listen to the word of God and act on it." Joseph stands with eager expectation at the threshold of transcendence. From the darkness of his own limited understanding, he is continually peering into the mystery of God. Surely he cannot fathom the mystery of God's plan, but with loving compassion he bows in reverence to God's incomprehensible ways. There is something very beautiful about Joseph's contacts with the transcendent mystery of God. He was not a monk. He was a carpenter, and he raised his son in the same trade. Yet in the midst of his daily manual labor and family life, Joseph was surrounded by the mystery of God and he penetrated it with faith. He trusted in God's daily providence. When he read the signs of God's will, he rushed to put them into practice. (Maloney, Seasons in Spirituality, p.52-53)

**Discussion:** (*Share thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)  
**How have you found "God's daily providence" in your family life?**

## Closing Prayer:

O God, You bless us with the gift of faith,  
-continue to strengthen our trust in you.  
O God, You bless us with the gift of family,  
-keep them always in your love.  
O God, You bless our Conference in countless ways,  
-we ask for your continued grace and guidance. Amen

