

| DAY | FEAST | READINGS | TIME |
|---------|--|--|--|
| Mon 29 | FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS | 1 Jn 2: 3-11; Lk 2: 22-35. | 5:30 PM |
| Tues 30 | SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS | 1 Jn 2: 12-17; Lk 2: 36-40. | 5:30 PM |
| Wed 31 | SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS | 1 Jn 2: 18-21; Jn 1: 1-18. | Holy Hour: 10 PM Thanksgiving Mass: 11 PM |
| Thu 1 | SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD | Num 6: 22-27; Gal 4: 4-7; Lk 2: 16-21. | 9:00 AM |
| Fri 2 | Weekday of Christmas Time Psalter Week I SS. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen | 1 Jn 2: 22-28; Jn 1: 19-28. | 12:15 PM |
| Sat 3 | Weekday of Christmas Time Psalter Week I The Most Holy Name of Jesus | 1 Jn 2: 29 - 3: 6; Jn 1: 29-34. | 5:30 PM |
| Sun 4 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3: 2-3, 5-6; Mt 2: 1-12. | 8:00 AM 5:30 PM |



Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception

NEWSLETTER

Vicariate website: rcvbd.com



Issue **2025/53**

For Private Circulation Only

28th December 2025

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Reading I: Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14;

Responsorial Psalm: 127:1-5;

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23.



Revised Roman Missal: 224 (Bahasa 161)

REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

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Second Collection

The Second Collection today will be for the Seminarian Fund.

THANKSGIVING MASS AND HOLY HOUR (31st December)

In gratitude to God, the Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, 31st December at 11:00PM. The Holy Hour will begin at 10:00PM. Please note that there will be no 5:30PM Mass on this day. *"Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever."*

NEW YEAR DAY MASS (1st January 2026)

Although 1st of January is not a day of obligation, it is the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of God. The Mass on this day will be celebrated at 9:00AM. This day is also the 59th World Day of Peace. May peace be one of the fruits of this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Coin Boxes

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Coin boxes given out on World Mission Sunday are to be returned to the Parish Office by 4th January. Please return the box as a sign of your child's participation in this annual collection for children in mission land.



Catechist Meeting (11th January)

There will be a meeting of all Sunday and COM classes teachers on Sunday 11th January at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall. All coordinators, assistants and helpers are requested to attend.

Sunday School Classes Registration (18th January)

Registration for Sunday School and COM Classes starts on Sunday, 18th January. The registration fee is \$15 and the workbook is \$5 per child. Classes will commence on 1st February with the Family Mass at 10:30 AM.



Collect for the Feast of the Holy Family

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Holy Family



Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. When God sent His Son Jesus into the world He wanted Him to come in a humble and quiet way. He wanted Jesus to have a mother and an earthly father and be raised in a happy home.



God brings us into the world in families too. He wants us to have good and loving mothers and fathers to look after us and teach us. Our Lady and Saint Joseph are great examples for parents. They loved Jesus and kept Him safe and let Him grow and learn.



Jesus is an example to children, too! Love your father and mother, obey them and pray for them. Today is a good time to think of how your family can become more like the Holy Family, living in peace, joy and love. Can you think of a way to be more obedient, loving or generous with your family?