

December 29-30, 2007

Sirach 3:2-14

Colossians 3:12-17

Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Erroneously, people may think that holiness denotes perfection. Thus, when describing someone of perceived 'holiness' there can be a misleading presumption of a blissful life, of easily addressed problems, endless patience and certainly no major blunders/issues that would preclude a run for potential elected political office. Aside from the probably boring/bland person that would be...it simply isn't what holiness is all about. Holiness is not an absence of struggle, it is not avoidance of blunders or grievous mistakes...holiness is about a foundational reliance upon the grace of God in one's life. Holiness is a humble acknowledgment of our frail humanity...and an eager embrace to both own our misgivings and enter into the mystery of grace. An excellent example of 'holiness' might be St. Peter...who was continually getting everything wrong...who even betrayed Jesus immediately prior to the crucifixion in order to save his own skin...but stuck around in order to try again...as contrasted with Judas who ended his conversation with Jesus by killing himself. This weekend we honor the HOLY FAMILY, a family with a litany of struggles and problems that makes some of our issues pale by comparison. Mary is discovered to be pregnant before she is officially married....maybe not an issue in 2007 but a HUGE issue two millennia ago...pretty much a life-ender. Imagine the humiliation and embarrassment of Joseph! Then he starts having dreams that counsel him to 'get over it' and accept Mary as his wife. Oh sure, that must have been easy. So much for taking care of his family, Joseph can't even procure adequate lodging in which his wife can deliver their baby...one success after another! Imagine as well that your life has just become like one of the Jason Bourne novels and people are out to kill your baby...and presumably you as well...Joseph uproots everyone and flees to Egypt...only to later be directed to return to Israel...again in a dream (one might imagine that Joseph was getting afraid to doze off for fear of what his 'angel dreams' would direct him to do!) Years later they misplace Jesus, leaving him in the Temple...for THREE DAYS! In our day and age this would amount to child-endangerment and calls for Child Protective Services would be made. A final image must be that of Mary watching her baby boy be nailed to a cross....and not be able to stop it. Can any of you as mothers imagine watching a crowd of people humiliate and kill your child without you trying to stop them? Uh huh.....this is the HOLY FAMILY...not a perfect family, not a family preserved from pain, struggle or suffering but a family that opened themselves to the promptings of God....listened...and followed those promptings. Sound familiar? It should....it's your life. Today is not just about Jesus, Mary and Joseph...it is about YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. Holiness is not perfection...and indeed, the lack of perfection may very well be the indication of holiness. So take another look at your life and realize...all those things that are out of whack and far from perfect....they just may be indicators of how holy you are! Who knew?!?!?!?

Without the rush of seasonal events and the crush of Christmas crowds, our Corpus Christi Family gathers this weekend in the glow of our Christmas decorations...thank you for joining with us as take a look in the mirror and realize that holiness is not perfection. Special thanks to everyone who donated poinsettias...the result of your kindness is all around us....THANK YOU. Thank you as well to all the special members of our family who have labored long and hard to ensure that our Christmas liturgies were beautiful, safe, clean and inspiring. Our Maintenance Ministry personnel fly into action after every event, straightening chairs, sweeping and mopping, cleaning and stocking bathrooms, shining windows and vacuuming carpets....you guys are THE BESTEST! Thank You! Our musicians and vocalists gave extra time for practice and arranged their own schedules so that all our liturgies would be enhanced with their abilities. THANK YOU! The Hospitality Ministers got themselves down here bright and early to greet countless faces old and young...thousands of worship aids got distributed...and picked back up again....THANK YOU! Our Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors were selfless in their service to our community, THANK YOU. The SCRIP people faithfully sold SCRIP, the donut and coffee crowd have diligently offered refreshment after our Masses. What a family indeed! Thank you to each and all who make our Corpus Christi Family thrive. Please accept a Bulletin on your way home for news of 2008. Remember, a Mass on Monday (New Year's Eve) at 5:00 and on Tuesday (New Year's Day) at 8:00. Party safe, have a great time saying goodbye to

2007 and get ready...because 2008 is right around the corner! Oh yes, and remember, you are loved. Fred
K.