



# CONSOLATA SHRINE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



31st December 2017

## FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

*“Your own son will be your heir”*

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring; and a slave born in my house will be my heir”. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; your own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness. The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 105:1-2.3-4.5-6.8-9

**Response. He, the Lord, is our God; he remembers his covenant forever.**

Give thanks to the Lord; proclaim his name.  
Make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works! **(Response)**

Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Turn to the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face. **(Response)**

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his marvels and his words of judgment.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O descendants of Jacob he chose. **(Response)**

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his marvels and his words of judgment.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O descendants of Jacob he chose. **(Response)**

**Response. He, the Lord, is our God; he remembers his covenant forever.**  
He remembers his covenant forever;  
the promise he ordained for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac. (**Response**)

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 11:8.11-12.17-19**

***“The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac”***

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

Brethren: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only-begotten son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your descendants be named.” He considered that God was able to raise men even from the dead; hence he did receive him back and this was a symbol.

***The word of the Lord***

**Alleluia Alleluia**

In many and various ways God spoke of old  
to our fathers by the prophets;  
but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.

**Alleluia**



## GOSPEL

**Luke: 2:22-40**

***“The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.”***

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

**W**hen the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to



him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and to the glory of your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### ***The Gospel of the Lord***

#### **OUR TRUE HOME by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.**

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see 2 Corinthians 6:16-18). In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today's readings - for mothers, fathers and children - is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth. Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their "familial" ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God. In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 3:3-6; 10:21). In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God. Until He reveals His new dwelling among us, and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son" (see Revelation 21:3,7).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Programme for Sunday 31st evening starts with a thanksgiving mass at 5:30pm. The New Year eve mass will start at 9pm followed by Adoration.
2. Monday 1st January 2018 is a public holiday and the Masses schedule will be as follows: 8:00am, 10.00am, and 5.30pm.
3. Friday 5th January is the first Friday of the Month. Night Vigil will start at 9.00pm and end with a holy Mass at 5.00am.
4. Next Sunday 7th we will have the Eucharistic Rosary prayed after the 12noon Mass.
5. Sunday 7th January, is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. There will be a second collection for the Holy Childhood. Proceeds will be sent to Pope Francis to assist Children of the world.
6. Celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord, there will be a special Mass at 3.00pm at the Shrine with the blessing of Children. All are welcome.
7. We continue registering members who would like to go on pilgrimage to Israel. A great occasion to understand and deepen our Faith. For more information, please read the boards outside the Church.
8. Due to the festive season there will be no PMC and Children Sunday Services until 4th February 2017.
9. The Bible Dairies 2017 which include daily reflection are available at the desk outside the Church and in the bookshop

### SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

#### 31st Sunday December 2017

5.30pm. Evening mass

9:00pm The New Year Vigil Holy Mass

11pm Adoration

#### New Year, 1st January 2018

Masses will be at 8am (Swahili Mass), 10am and 5.30pm (English Mass)

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