

# The Eucharist

27 December 2020 ♦ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / B



**T**oday's Mass, reminds us that the Saviour was born into a family. This gives inspiration to the family, the basic unit of society, when Christian family life is threatened from every side. The Mass reminds us of how the Child Jesus developed in a family which devoutly observed religious practices.



*'Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.'*

## FIRST READING *(Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3)*

Here is the story of Abraham, the man of faith, who did not hesitate even to sacrifice his only son, because God asked him to do so. His unswerving faith was rewarded beyond all expectations. He became the father of a nation.

## SECOND READING *(Hebrews 11:8.11-12.17-19)*

This second reading today takes up the story of Abraham and highlights his faith in the promises of God. Because of his faith 'there came from one man more descendants than could be counted.'

## GOSPEL *(Luke 2:22-40)*

In this Gospel the Holy Family is shown fulfilling the Mosaic Law. Religious practice was the example given by Mary and Joseph.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Lk 2:16)*

**The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You came to call sinners:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising 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, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

(Gn 15:1-6;21:1-3)

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless ...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(Ps 104:1-6.8-9)

**R He, the Lord, is our God.  
He remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works! **R**
2. Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face. **R**
3. Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac. **R**

**SECOND READING**

(Heb 11:8.11-12.17-19)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead;

and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(Heb 1:1-2)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

(Lk 2:22-40)

(For Shorter Form, read between ♦ ♦).



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

♦ When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ♦ – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

♦ When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord. ♦

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Profession of Faith

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, all bow.*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The priest introduces the* Prayer of the Faithful.

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), ...  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.

### Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,  
humbly asking that,  
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God  
and Saint Joseph,  
you may establish our families firmly  
in your grace and your peace.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Eucharistic Prayer III (Preface I of the Nativity of the Lord)

The Lord be with you.  
And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,

(Nicene Creed)

Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh  
a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes  
of our mind,  
so that, as we recognize in him God made visible,  
we may be caught up through him  
in love of things invisible.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created  
rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and ☩ Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection  
and Ascension into heaven,  
and as we look forward to his second coming,  
we offer you in thanksgiving  
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death  
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us  
an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs  
(with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*)  
and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence  
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,  
we pray, O Lord,  
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.  
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth,  
with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,  
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory  
through Christ our Lord,  
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

Amen.

### THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, ...**  
Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace  
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated  
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...**

*Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

(Bar 3:38)

**Our God has appeared on the earth,  
and lived among us.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,  
most merciful Father,  
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,  
so that, after the trials of this world,  
we may share their company for ever.  
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May the God of infinite goodness,  
who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness  
from the world

and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy day,  
drive far from you the darkness of vice  
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **Amen.**

May God, who willed that the great joy  
of his Son's saving Birth  
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,  
fill your minds with the gladness he gives  
and make you heralds of his Gospel. **Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation  
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,  
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour  
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Personal Prayer

Lord God, from you every family in heaven and on earth  
takes its name. Father, you are Love and Life. Through  
your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through  
the Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity, grant that  
every family on earth may become for each successive  
generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and  
actions of husbands and wives for the good of their  
families and all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support  
for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and  
love. Amen.