

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14.

The prophet reminds us of the respect due to parents.

Second Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21.

Paul writes of the love and mutual respect that should exist in a Christian family.

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

Where the Israelites had previously found refuge, Jesus and his parents seek safety from Herod's tyranny.



Points for Reflection

Today we are invited to **fix our attention on the Family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary.** The reason is that this family was the natural environment where Jesus, like any one of us, grew up and was prepared to accomplish his mission.

Although we may suppose that Joseph and Mary did not fully understand what Jesus was going to accomplish, we believe that they were completely ready and willing to comply with whatever God the Father was asking of Jesus. They were absolutely convinced that what matters most in life is to do God's will, as Jesus did, and they did their best to live accordingly, no matter what the cost.

We can safely say that in Jesus, Mary and Joseph, God did not find any obstacles to his plan of merciful love for mankind. On the contrary, he found them in full cooperation with his plan. Because of their commitment to his will, he could manifest his love for mankind and carry out, through Jesus, the God-made-Man, his work of salvation.

Precisely because of its obedience to God's will, the Holy Family has become the model of all families. Every family, especially every Christian family, should also put God's will at the top of its concerns. Parents should think of themselves as loving and docile instruments in God's hands for the carrying out of his merciful plan for mankind.

They should, first of all, be attentive to God's will. God speaks to us through his Word which we can find in Holy Scripture, especially the Gospels. If we read the Bible with the proper disposition, in an atmosphere of silence and of humble and docile attentiveness, we can hear the voice of the Spirit of God.

God speaks to us also through the events of life, because most events do not depend on our own decisions. When this happens, we can be sure that it is God inviting us to take an orientation different from our own: it is what we call God's Providence. God speaks to us in a special way through our own natural gifts. What we have received by birth should inspire and guide our orientation in life.

Once parents have found out God's will for their children, they should help them to follow it. Parents are not the masters of their children. Their children are given to them by God, as Jesus was given to Mary and Joseph by God. The duty of parents, therefore, is to prepare and help their children to accomplish the mission that God has in store for them, for the well-being of the society they live in, and for the spreading of God's Kingdom of justice and love. In order to do so, they should always keep Jesus Christ before their eyes and in their hearts, as their Way, Truth and Life.

Difficulties, hardships, misunderstandings, ups and downs, are not absent from Christian families, as they were not absent from the Holy Family. With God at the top of their concerns and Jesus in their midst, Joseph and Mary could do things well and solve their problems in a spirit of love.

If God is the centre of a family, mutual love and concern for the people around them will help the members of a family overcome these hardships, or make use of them for better purposes.

Let all Christian families remember that God counts on them for the accomplishment of his plan of salvation. It is mostly through good Christian families that God will gather mankind into his own great Family.

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph obtain for us the strength to open our hearts to each other and to contribute in the best possible way to the

promotion of true family love in our own families and in the great family of mankind.

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)			
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Secretary:	Miss Tse Choi Ping	Confessions: Sundays before Mass; Weekdays on call	
Office hours:	Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 6.00 Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon		
Parish Council Chairlady:	Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:	
		Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 st Thursday of the month 8.00 pm	

Schedule for Christmas Season

Date	Activities	Time	Venue
26 December 2010 Feast of the Holy Family	Mass (Chinese) Mass (English) Mass (Chinese)	7:45 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Church
27 December 2010	Mass (Chinese)	8:00 am	Church
1 January 2011 New Year's Day	Mary, Mother of God Solemnity Mass (Chinese) Mary, Mother of God Solemnity Mass (English)	8:00 am 9:00am	Church
Anticipated Sunday Mass (Saturday) Epiphany of Our Lord	Mass (English) Mass (Chinese)	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	

Fr Carlo Tei wishes all parishioners a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

