

ENTRANCE ANTIPOH

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

PENITENTIAL ACT

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...Amen.

THE 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**

OPENING PRAYER

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.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD**FIRST READING 1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28****A reading from the first book of Samuel**

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel, 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli.

She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you,

praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 83:2-3.5-6.9-10

R. They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.
2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength.
3. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

SECOND READING 1 John 3: 1-2. 21-24**A reading from the first letter of St. John**

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

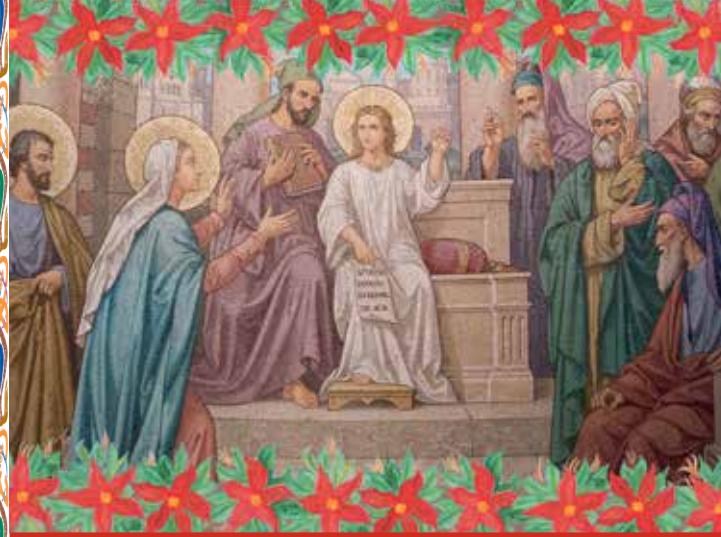
Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2: 41-52**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their

**FOCUS ON SUNDAY****THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 26th December 2021**

A day to pray with and for our family; to give thanks to God for them; to pray for healing of divisions and bitterness. We pray that we may grow in respect and love for our extended family throughout the world.



So much in this story; not just a little boy lost. It brings in so many issues of life for us. Pain with family members. Losing someone, someone leaving home, worrying and fretting about a younger one. So often part of family life. The worrying parents. About letting the children go. Everyone finds their own way in life. Things move on. The example of the father teaching the child to ride the bike. He has to let go if the child is to learn.

LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE!

Gifts in Jesus emerge at 12. They have something to tell us. Gifts later to blossom. He was encouraged in his mission in life by the elders listening. Not just passive but asking questions, challenging them with his wisdom.

Lessons here for young and old – for the old to listen to the young, and for the young to ask advice and gain wisdom from the old. Both can get stuck into thinking they have all the answers. We all have something to offer each other if we are true to the best in us and not exercising our egos and pride.

THEN FOR MARY AND JOSEPH

The care of God for Jesus. She knew that, and had to hand him over to God. The care of God for all we know and love. Mary praying, often for Jesus. She let him go - not to nothing, but to his father in heaven. That is what the parent does also – allow God look after the other, and the child later doing the same for the parent. Knowing that as we are about the business of God, the business of love, he too is about the same business, of care and love for his people.

Donal Neary SJ.(editor Sacred Heart Messenger).

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

My Lord and my God.