



THE HOLY FAMILY

Holy Cross Catholic Church

5227 N. Bowdoin St., Portland, OR 97203

Office: 503.289.2834

Office Hours: 9am - 4pm (Mon. thru Fri.)

Email: holycrossoffice@archdpdx.org

Website: www.holycrosspdx.org

Holy Cross Catholic School

5202 N. Bowdoin St., Portland, OR 97203

Office: 503.289.3010

Email: dlarsen@archdpdx.org

Website: www.holycrosspdx.org/school

Welcome:

If you are a new parishioner, or visiting for the first time, welcome to Holy Cross Catholic Church! We are happy you are here and hope you find our parish home to be a warm and welcoming place. If you would like to become a member of our parish, please check with the parish office or give us a call.

Homebound: For Communion to the sick or the homebound, please call the parish office.

St. Vincent de Paul: *Closed until the completion of our New Community Center & SVdP Food Pantry in 2024.

Funerals: To ensure the availability of a priest and the church, please call the office before you make arrangements with the funeral director.

Baptism Preparation: Classes offered as needed. Please contact the parish staff for more information. Se ofrece una clase cada tercer sábado del mes a las 10 de la mañana.

Senior Luncheon: We are working on re-establishing the Luncheons and will notify everyone when we are ready to offer lunch once a month for Seniors and Friends.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Mark Bachmeier
holycrossoffice@archdpdx.org

Hispanic Ministry: Carmina Perez
503.289.2834

Rel. Education/Youth Ministry: Andrea Swanson
503.206.8069 or aswanson@archdpdx.org

Director of Evangelization: Mary Jane Weber
503.953.8328 or mweber@archdpdx.org

Parish Office: Lori Kreutzer
503.289.2834 or holycrossoffice@archdpdx.org

Business Manager: Deb Volker 503.289.7130

CASE Administration: Tessa Johnson
tejohnson@archdpdx.org or 503.791.6848

SCHOOL STAFF

Principal Holy Cross School: RJ Tagorda
503.289.3010 or rjtagorda@archdpdx.org

Development Director: Julie Johnson
jjohnson@archdpdx.org

Legacy Giving Director: Sister Mary Ryan
503.289.2834

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday - Friday: 8am Rosary, 8:30am Mass

Saturday: 5pm Vigil, English

Sunday: 9am, English & 12pm, Español

Adoration: Thursdays, 8:30am-8:30pm

Adoración al Santísimo: jueves, 8:30am-8:30pm

Reconciliation: Wednesdays, 7pm & Fridays, following the 8:30am Mass.

Reconciliación: miércoles, 7pm y viernes, 9am

Anointing of the Sick: Second Wednesday of each month following the 8:30am Mass.

(Anointing is available at all hours in emergency.)

School Mass: Fridays, 8:30am (Sept.—June)

St. Vincent de Paul: *Closed until the completion of our new Community Center & SVdP Food Pantry in 2024.

December 30th & 31st, 2023: Feast of the Holy Family

The Church Teaches...



Happy Feast of the Holy Family!
Even if we only read Luke 2, 22-40 casually, we would still recognize Simeon and Anna as “key players” in the account of the “Presentation” of Jesus in the Temple. At the time, it would have been perfectly logical

(and even likely) that two old people would be found every day in the Temple awaiting the arrival of the long-promised Messiah.

It is also likely that they were speaking to and blessing every couple that came to fulfill the law. It is as though they did not want to miss the Messiah for whom they longed, so they would have been there for every child. There is nothing in the Gospel text that suggests Mary and Joseph were the only couple Simeon and Anna greeted.

Speaking of “key players,” what is important in the Gospel is that Mary and Joseph *went to the Temple* – they were good, practicing Jews, they observed all the laws and customs. They were also “real” parents. They had no clear idea about everything that was coming or what their Child was going to be like. Given that He was their first-born, they didn’t even have any practice at parenting! We get no details about their private lives except one occasion when they got separated from their Son, and another occasion when His mother went with family members to get Him away from the maddening crowds. They did that because they loved Him so much. Again, the Holy Family was (and is) a “real” family.

Isn’t it amazing that a “real” family was where and how God chose to begin the work of salvation and redemption? This is what is called “fundamental Incarnation” – God with us, Emmanuel, revealed in a family, *and not just once*. God is still being revealed in our families. Just like in Nazareth, the hand of God, the presence of God, the love of God, the forgiveness of God, the tenderness of God, and the mercy of God – all of these are present in our families – all we have to do is look and see.

It makes no sense to put Mary and Joseph on a pedestal, suggesting that their home, their relationships, and their experiences were not much the same as our own. For example, in the same way we pray for each other, Mary and Joseph (and Simeon and Anna) pray for us. May their intercession be powerful and helpful – today and into the New Year.



The Holy Cross Worship Schedule

- ❖ Daily Mass: Tues. - Fri., 8:30am
- ❖ Confessions: Wednesdays, 7pm & Fridays, following the 8:30am Mass

(Appointments for Confession are also available throughout the week.)

Bulletin Announcements



School News—Holy Cross Parents’ Association Giving Back!

Annually the HCPA aims to donate at least \$50,000 to Holy Cross to be used for tuition assistance, special programs, facility updates, or however the administration sees fit. In addition to this donation the HCPA monetarily supports various other programs.

Thanks to the hard work of the HCPA leaders and volunteers in the ‘21/’22 & ‘22/’23 school years the HCPA raised above and beyond our goals, and because of that we’re making additional donations to the school:

- New equipment for PE, recess, and CYO teams.
- 116 new books for the library, including many titles for our teen/middle school readers specifically selected by Mrs. Louie and Ms. Ott, PLUS an additional \$1,000 for books and other library needs.
- New, more suitable tables for the Computer Lab!

In addition to committed HCPA volunteers and leaders, these contributions to the school are made possible by the generous effort of each and every one of you.

—Thank you! ☺



SPAM/Phishing Reminder—Unfortunately, there have been new SPAM/Phishing-related emails and texts (**that appear to be sent by Fr. Mark asking for a favor**) received by staff and parishioners! Please be aware that no member of the clergy/staff will email you a request for money or gift cards... or send you an unidentified file to open.

If you get a suspicious email/text you should:

- Delete the email. Do not open.
- If you question the validity of the email, send a NEW email to the individual who allegedly sent the initial one.
- DO NOT REPLY to the SPAM/Phishing email.

We are so sorry that we must continue to deal with this.

The Church’s Calendar:

Sunday, December 31st—Feast of the Holy Family: The Lord Jesus entered a human family in order to show us how to enter the Divine family. What a tremendous gift! Such is the mysterious care of God for us.



Monday, January 1st—The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God: On this special day, which falls on a Monday this year, we seek God’s blessings, as did Mary. Because of her “yes” to God and because of her Son, we can call God “Abba” (Father).

Sunday, January 7th— The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord: Especially on this day, all nations are invited to sing the Lord’s praises, for we have been called to hear the Good News and worship the long-awaited Messiah and King. “Come, let us adore Him.”

Bulletin Announcements: Activities & Opportunities



Holy Cross Advent Giving Project—

Jesus has told us that when we help those in need, we help Him.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Advent Giving Project. Within our parish community there are families going through challenging times that could *still* use our help.

As a part of the Project, we purchased Fred Meyer scrip, through the school, to help parish and school "families in need" during the winter months.

It's not too late to help! Please place your tax-deductible contribution in and envelope labeled "**Advent Giving Project.**" Donations may be made in the regular offertory basket or at the parish office.

To give online, go to:

<https://www.holycrosspdx.org/holy-cross-church/give/>

- Click on: "Click HERE to Give Online"
- Click on: FUND and scroll down to Advent Giving Project
God Bless you, and thank you for your generosity!

Of all the Feasts of Mary, that of her Motherhood is the oldest celebrated by the Church. And it is the source of everything we know and believe about this woman "so favored and blessed by God." What St. Luke tells us about her provides a clear look at the response of anyone who becomes aware of God's action in their lives and conscious of the great privilege it is to bear and give flesh to the Word of God.



We will gather Monday for Mass because we, too, are aware of God's action in our lives: aware of the gifts we have, the faith we share, and the hope that has been nurtured in our hearts. **Join us for Mass Monday at 9am.**



Our Capital Campaign Committee is excited to announce that we recently received a \$50,000 gift from the Lester P. John Foundation. We are so grateful. When Fr. Mark was the pastor at Astoria's Star of the Sea parish, Mr. and Mrs. John would be regular visitors to the North Coast (they had a home in Gearhart). They were dutiful about attending Mass at Astoria's Misson church. Although both of them have since died, it is heartwarming to know that their kindness lives on and their "connection" to Fr. Mark remains.

It is still true that if you have already responded to the Campaign you can **add to** your gift and if you have not yet given to the Campaign, the year-end (or the beginning of the new year) is a perfect time to step up!

As we look back at our long history here in North Portland, it is clear that we are living with a legacy left by those who have gone before us (from four parishes). We are deeply grateful for that legacy of faith, prayer, vision, determination, and action which previous generations have given us as a gift. And yet, there is still much to be done so that our present dream may be realized. Please join us in the effort to become even more of a beacon of light and hope for our whole community and our neighbors.

News: Our general contractor (the Grant Company) was waiting for the asbestos abatement to be completed at the convent and they have now submitted a "permit request" to the City of Portland for demolition. Early in the new year, we may see the first signs of construction (and demolition) equipment, fencing, and brightly colored vests worn by construction workers. Given that St. Joseph is the patron and protector over our new Community Center project and over workers, please ask for his continued generous help!



We thank our St. Vincent de Paul workers for their years of dedication to feeding the hungry here in North Portland.

While it is true that our Food Pantry is now closed (until our new Community Center opens), we are directing our labors and financial support to the SVdP Conference at Holy Redeemer parish.

Please continue to use your "blue envelopes" to support this vitally important ministry in North and Northeast Portland. Anyone interested in volunteering at the Holy Redeemer Food Pantry, please call 503.880.2780, or email: svdp@holyredeemerpdx.org



We are thankful again this year to our friends at Hustad Funeral Home for providing calendars for whole parish. **Calendars will be available at the beginning of the new year.** Please take a copy and remember the kindness the staff at Hustad has shown us over the years.

While it is true that some funeral homes in the area have become "corporate concerns," the people at Hustad have maintained a high level of personal and respectful care, for which we are thankful.



Beautiful Eucharist—At our Christmas Masses this year we will be offering a gift to the entire parish community: Matthew Kelly's bestselling book *Beautiful Eucharist*. This book will be available in English & Spanish.

Beautiful Eucharist is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus *truly* present in the Eucharist and *wonderfully* present in our lives.

The Holy Family

When we talk about the Holy Family we are talking about Jesus and his mother Mary and his foster-father, Saint Joseph. Mary became the mother of Jesus when she was betrothed (formally engaged) to St. Joseph, and Jesus' real father was God the Father Himself. So Saint Joseph acted as the Father of Jesus on earth.



Saint Joseph was a carpenter and worked hard to provide for his family. Mary loved Jesus and Joseph and cooked and cleaned for them. When Jesus was old enough Saint Joseph trained Him to be a carpenter as well. Because they all loved each other with generosity and selflessness they were really the happiest and holiest family that ever lived.

We can imitate the Holy Family by loving our parents and siblings and putting others before ourselves. What can you do today to make your family happier and holier?



Holy Cross is here for you and your family!

Is your family searching for the chance to grow in faith? Is your family wanting to be closer with our North Portland Catholic community?

Please reach out to us for more information!



Join us for our next Family Faith Fun Day on January 14th!



Join us for our growing tradition every second Sunday of the month!

We have **Youth Masses** at 9am & noon, engaging young people more deeply in the Mass!

Then, we have a **Family Faith Fun Celebration** between the Masses, from 10am to noon.

We have activities, games, and crafts to excite your family's faith! All activities are bilingual!

Come join us!

December 31st, 2023: Feast of the Holy Family
January 1st, 2024: Feast of Mary the Mother of God



Mary,

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Under what title do we honour Our Lady on January 1st?
Use the code to find out!

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Important Dates

- December 30:** Feast of the Holy Family Vigil Mass, 5pm
December 31: Feast of the Holy Family Masses,
9am & Noon (Span)
*Note: No Vigil Mass in the evening
January 1: Feast of Mary, the Mother of God Masses
9am & 12pm (Spanish)
January 3: Confessions, 7pm
January 4: Adoration, 8:30am-8:30pm
January 5: Confessions, following the 8:30am Mass
January 7: Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord



Next Week's Readings: January 6th & 7th

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

- 1st Reading:** Isaiah 60, 1-6 **Psalm:** 72
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3, 2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2, 1-12



January 1 is the World Day of Peace.

It is primarily a Catholic feast day dedicated to universal peace on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

On this occasion, Popes have generally made authoritative declarations on the Catholic Social Teachings. The theme of the feast has always been about “creating a culture of care.”

True to form, this year Pope Francis will again stress the need to care for and share tolerance with each other, and to create a society that focuses on good moral values and does not yield to the temptation to disregard others. The benefits of a peaceful society have been the emphasis of every year’s World Day of Peace.

World Day of Peace began in 1967 when Pope (St.) Paul VI announced that the world needs to be more oriented toward peace and understanding. This is obviously still a work in progress!

“**O Loving God,** your Son came into the world to do your will and leave us His Peace. Through the help and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace to the world. Inspire our thoughts, words, and deeds to bear witness to your presence in our hearts. May your Holy Spirit fill us with every grace and blessing so that we may pursue what leads to peace for all humanity. In your holy Name we pray. Amen.”

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Mass Intentions for January 2nd—7th, 2024:

- Tues. +Michael by Trinh Vu
Wed. +Mariano Juan Tomas Andres by family
Thurs. +Dominico by the Nguyen Family
Friday +Barbara Valdez by Holy Cross School
Sat. (Spm) +Joe Schweitzer by Bob Mildenberger Family
Sun. (9am) People of the Parish
(12pm) +Rebeca Navarrete by family

To arrange for a Mass intention, please contact the parish office.
Please plan ahead if you are requesting a specific date.



In our prayers, let us remember all those who have died, including: Monica Ruscheinsky and Louise Paschelke

Let us pray for all those who are ill or homebound, including: Darlene Thayer, Shayna Ramirez, Sue Anne Boettcher, Mary Ragland, Irene Heaverin, Bob Hungerford, John Bachmeier, Greg Busch, Amanda Holmberg, Anita Verbout, Erma Faoro, Christina Gardener, Carl Cawley, Tiem Nguyen, Jim & Marvilla Graiff, Kathy Ackley, Sandra Blossom, Ann O'Reilly, Richard Lund, Sr. Mary Ryan, Annie Braunstein, Donna Hatley, Chris Kelly, Rose Petersen, Jane Bachman, Ann Renon, Jack Link, Bernie Maloney, Tina Paradiso, and Rupert Liddie

Stewardship



December 17th & 18th, 2023

Weekend Offertory: \$5,220.00
Online Giving: \$1,480.00
Total: \$6,700.00

*Weekend Offertory/Online Giving for December 24th-25th, will be included in the January 6th-7th, 2024 Bulletin due to early holiday print dates.

*Weekly Offertory needed \$11,805.00

The lives of Mary and Joseph show their constant obedience to God’s call. They teach us to live with joy, grateful for all we have been given. They teach us to trust in God’s every promise. They teach us to walk each step of life’s journey with deep and abiding hope.

The Holy Family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt, and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have had to fulfill daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, and attend gatherings of family and friends. They would have lived normal family life in every way. May their “holy” example inspire us and reassure us.

Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary and Joseph reflected (and still reflect) the light of Christ. Like them, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the whole world (and our small part of it) through our gratitude and generosity.

LA IGLESIA NOS ENSEÑA



Hoy se habla mucho de la crisis de la institución familiar. Ciertamente la crisis es grave. Pero no es lícito ser “catastrofistas.” Aunque estamos siendo testigos de una verdadera revolución en la conducta familiar, y muchos han predicado la muerte de diversas formas tradicionales de familia, nadie anuncia hoy seriamente la desaparición de la familia.

Al contrario, la historia parece enseñarnos que en los tiempos difíciles se estrechan más los vínculos familiares. La abundancia separa a los hombres – la crisis y la dificultad los une. Ante el presentimiento de que vamos a vivir tiempos difíciles, son bastantes los que presagian un nuevo renacer de la familia.

Con frecuencia, el deseo sincero de muchos cristianos de imitar a la sagrada familia de Nazaret ha favorecido el ideal de una familia cimentada en la armonía y la felicidad del propio hogar. Sin duda, es necesario también hoy promover la autoridad y responsabilidad de los padres, la obediencia de los hijos, el diálogo y la solidaridad familiar. Sin estos valores la familia fracasará.

Pero no cualquier familia responde a las exigencias del Reino de Dios planteadas por Jesús. Hay familias abiertas al servicio de la sociedad, y familias egoístamente replegadas sobre sí mismas. Familias autoritarias y familias de talante dialogal. Familias que educan en el egoísmo y familias que enseñan solidaridad.

La verdad es que no podemos celebrar responsablemente la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia, sin escuchar el reto de nuestra fe. ¿Serán nuestros hogares un lugar donde las nuevas generaciones escucharán la llamada del Evangelio a la fraternidad universal, la defensa de los abandonados, y la búsqueda de una sociedad más justa?

Muchísimas gracias a todas las personas que, tan generosamente, trabajaron y nos apoyaron de muchas maneras en la celebración de la Natividad de Jesús. Que Dios les bendiga siempre en sus vidas y en sus familias.

Sin cada uno de ustedes, no habría posible tener una celebración tan hermosa como la que tuvimos. Agradecemos infinitamente todo el apoyo recibido: su tiempo, sus talentos, sus donaciones, y sus oraciones. Demos gracias a Dios por la “salud espiritual” de nuestra comunidad parroquial.



PARA REFLEJAR....



Algo que la pandemia global nos enseñó es que “sin la familia no somos nada.” Hemos aprendido que la esencia de la familia es el amor incondicional y es ese amor el que nos mantiene unidos – aunque sea en la distancia.

Hemos aprendido también que todas las personas están abiertas al amor y cada tipo de familia trata de vivir ese amor en la medida en que las circunstancias y condicionamientos se lo permiten.

Jesús quiso nacer en el seno de una familia, que era y sigue siendo en buena medida el fundamento de la sociedad. Es en la familia donde nos hemos sentido amados, por el simple hecho de ser miembro de ella. El amor infinito de Dios tiene esa capacidad de manifestarse a través del amor de personas limitadas. Y es ese amor el que nos ha permitido crecer y nos ha dado la convicción de que la vida merece la pena.

* * *

María y José, presentando a Jesús en el Templo (Lucas 2, 22-40), reconocen que es un don de Dios, que ha sido confiado a sus cuidados. Ambos escuchan atentamente de boca de dos ancianos (Simeón y Ana) las profecías que iluminan el sentido de la vida de ese Niño. En medio de la alegría Navideña aparecen ya las primeras sombras. Ese Niño será bandera discutida y ellos no podrán hacer nada para evitarle el final trágico. Que la celebración de la temporada Navideña afiance el amor en el interior de nuestras familias y nos lleve a descubrir que toda la humanidad forma la familia de los hijos e hijas de Dios.



Nuestro Comité de la Campaña Capital se complace en anunciar que una familia parroquial ha prometido una donación adicional de \$20,000 a nuestro nuevo Centro Comunitario ¡y hemos llegado a nuestra meta! Los \$20,000 se convirtieron a \$40,000.

Si usted ya respondió a la Campaña y desea **aumentar** su donación, no se duplicará pero nos ayudará mucho. Si aún no ha donado a la Campaña, ahora es su momento. Qué manera tan estupenda de celebrar el fin de año (piense en las ventajas fiscales).

Por favor acompañenos en el esfuerzo por convertirnos aún más en un faro de luz y esperanza para toda nuestra comunidad y nuestros vecinos. Tenemos muchas oportunidades de oro ante nosotros y queremos posicionarnos para continuar sirviendo y satisfaciendo todas las necesidades de nuestra parroquia, escuela y vecindario en el futuro. Ayúdenos a crear un nuevo legado para las generaciones futuras, anticipándonos a lo que aún está por suceder, bendiciendo verdaderamente nuestro futuro.

Que la Sagrada Familia nos haga ser valientes y decididos en construir nuestra comunidad y en bendecir nuestro futuro. Y que el año que viene sea para nosotros una llamada a tomar conciencia del papel que hemos de jugar todos por recuperar, fortalecer, y dar más vigor a nuestras familias y a nuestra familia parroquial.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

Equipo Pastoral 503.289.2834

Pláticas Pre-Bautismales:

Tercer sábado del mes a las 10am.
Recuerde que necesita registrar a su hijo/a
antes de asistir a la plática.

Bautismos:

El primer sábado del mes a las 9:30am y el **último domingo del mes** después de Misa.

Estas fechas son solo para niños menores de 6 años.

Los niños mayores de 6 años deberán de comunicarse a la oficina antes de apartar alguna fecha.

Preparación Sacramental para:

Iniciación Católica para Adultos (RICA) y Bodas – por favor llame a la oficina

Misas de Quinceañeras:

Misa de Acción de Gracias para Quinceañeras en grupo, el segundo sábado del mes a la 1pm.

Confesiones:

Los miércoles a las 7pm,
los viernes a las 9am,
y por cita entre semana.

Adoración al Santísimo:

Cada jueves de las 8:30am a las 8:30pm.

Misa con Unción de los Enfermos:

Segundo miércoles del mes inmediatamente después de la Misa de 8:30am.

En nuestras oraciones recordemos:

...a todos los que están enfermos,

incluyendo: Darlene Thayer, Shayna Ramirez, Sue Anne Boettcher, Mary Ragland, Irene Heaverin, Sr. Mary Ryan, Erma Faoro, Bob Hungerford, Anita Verbout, Greg Busch, Amanda Holmberg, Jim & Marvilla Graiff, John Bachmeier, Sadrac Lopez, Carl Cawley, Kathy Ackley, Richard Lund, Sandra Blossom, Annie Braunstein, Donna Hatley, Rupert Liddie, Chris Kelly, Rose Petersen, Jane Bachman, Bernie Maloney, Tina Paradiso, and Jack Link



...y a todos los que han muerto,
especialmente Monica Ruscheinsky
and Louise Paschelke

*"Te pedimos, Señor, que tus siervos que han muerto ya para este mundo, vivan ahora para ti y que tu amor misericordioso borre los pecados que cometieron por fragilidad humana.
Por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor."*

HORARIO PARROQUIAL

- 31 de diciembre: Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia, 12pm**
1 de enero: Fiesta de la Madre de Dios, 12pm (en Esp.)
3 de enero: Confesiones, 7pm
4 de enero: Adoración, 8:30am-8:30pm
5 de enero: Confesiones, 9am
7 de enero: Fiesta de la Epifanía (Reyes Magos), 12pm



Corresponsabilidad Parroquial— 17 de diciembre: \$6,700.00

¡Gracias!

(El Ofertorio semanal necesita llegar al presupuesto Parroquial: \$11,805.00)

En el tiempo Navideño celebramos la venida del Señor, que quiere nacer en el corazón de cada persona. Como Él quiso necesitar de María y José, así hoy quiere necesitar de nosotros para que también pueda nacer en los corazones de todos en el mundo.

Nuestro Dios nos manifiesta en el cumplimiento de la promesa del Mesías. Gracias a la disponibilidad de María y José (auténticas protagonistas de la temporada), y a su acogida de fe, se revela el “secreto” mantenido en silencio durante siglos eternos: Dios hecho silencio en el seno de María, en el pesebre de Belén, con ayuda de José, en el taller de Nazaret, y en lo alto de la Cruz ... ese Dios que hoy y siempre nos está hablando y quiere comunicarse con nosotros.

LA LITURGIA — LECTURAS

FIESTA DE LA EPIFANÍA, 7 DE ENERO

Primera Lectura: Isaías 60, 1-6

Salmo: 71

Segunda Lectura: Efesios 3, 2-3, 5-6

Evangelio: Mateo 2, 1-12

EL DÍA DEL SEÑOR



En nuestro propio tiempo Dios nos ha hablado por medio de su propio Hijo – Luz radiante de la gloria de Dios – por medio del cual hizo todas las cosas. Que este Hijo, Jesucristo el Señor, esté siempre con nosotros.

Hoy, de una manera especial, Dios nos dice algo muy importante sobre el sentido y significado de nuestra fe católica. Nuestra fe nos es precisa y solamente una doctrina en la que creemos. La Palabra de Dios no es una doctrina, sino una persona: ¡Jesús! En Él, la Palabra de Dios y sus promesas se vuelven vivas.

Las fiestas Navideñas (y de manera especial, la fiesta de hoy de la Sagrada Familia) nos ofrecen la oportunidad para celebrar que el Hijo de Dios se hace nuestro hermano y centro de nuestras vidas. En Jesús, Dios Padre nos revela quién es Él: un Dios que ama, un Dios que salva, y un Dios cercano a su pueblo. Por medio de Jesús, Dios nos vincula a sí mismo y Él se vincula a nosotros – comparte plenamente nuestra vida. Por medio de (y con) Jesús, podemos responder al amor de Dios en fiel entrega a Él y los unos a los otros.

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