

CCE is on Christmas break until January 5, 2020.

Have a very merry and blessed Christmas season!

Celebrate the love of God in coming to live among us, to save us from bondage to sin, and to open the gates of Heaven to those who believe in Him.

O, come, let us adore Him!



Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Feast of the Holy Family

By Ginger Herrington

Reading 1: *The wisdom of Sirach extols the rewards of obedience to the Fourth Commandment.* Obedience to and honoring your parents atones for your sins and preserves you from sinning; your prayers will be heard; and you will be blessed with a long life. While our families are not *the holy family*, our families can work every day at being holy by loving and respecting each other, by comforting and encouraging one another, and by working together towards the same goal: Heaven.

Reading 2: *Let the peace of Christ control our hearts.* St. Paul advises the Colossians as to how a Christian soul should be: **holy**. Our lives should radiate compassion, gentleness, patience, kindness, and humility, readily seeking forgiveness and readily forgiving. Gratitude is another sure sign of a Christian whose heart is animated by love. He advises wives to be subordinate to their husbands as the head of the family. Husbands are called to a harder duty: love your wives as Christ loves His Church – unto death. Husbands are asked to be willing to give their lives for their wives. Children are tasked with obedience to their parents. Each member of the family has a special place in it, just as each person has a unique role to play in the world. God has a plan for each one of us. Love Him, seek Him in prayer, and allow His peace to guide your heart.

Gospel: *Joseph attentively obeys the angel of the Lord.* St. Joseph took Mary into his home in obedience to a message from an angel. He hurried his young family out of Bethlehem in the middle of the night at the behest of an angel. He returned out of Egypt and settled in Nazareth at the guidance of an angel. Angels are messengers from God, so Joseph was wise to heed them. We've been blessed to have been taught hymns of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest" sang the angels at Jesus' birth; and "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts" sang the angels in the Revelation of John. According to our Catechism, angels are spiritual, personal, immortal creatures with intelligence and free will. Jesus is the center of the angelic world: they are *His* angels. God has blessed each one of us with a guardian angel. Angels are their own kind of creature: when we die, we will *not* become angels. We will be pure spirit until the general resurrection, when we will be reunited with our glorified bodies. Thank God for your guardian angel and for all of the angels who guard us and guide us.



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