

## Readings for Sunday, December 27, 2020

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

### First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: "*Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great.*" But Abram said, "*O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?*" Abram continued, "*See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir.*" Then the word of the LORD came to him: "*No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir.*" The Lord took Abram outside and said, "*Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,*" he added, "*shall your descendants be.*" Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

R. (7a, 8a) **The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds.

Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!

Look to the LORD in his strength; constantly seek his face.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

You descendants of Abraham, his servants, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He, the LORD, is our God; throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

He remembers forever his covenant which he made binding for a thousand generations which he entered into with Abraham and by his oath to Isaac.

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

### Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age --and Sarah herself was sterile-- for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "*Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.*" He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

### Gospel Acclamation: Hebrews 1:1-2

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "*Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.*" The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "*Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted --and you yourself a sword will pierce--so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.*" There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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*(Profession of Faith on reverse)*

## **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

## **Prayers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus**

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that,  
as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will  
and to do what Jesus tells us: He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you"  
took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows  
to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and  
minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

**V.** We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

**R.** Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.