

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We prepare for Christ's coming when we live our Christian family values.

PROMISE:

"Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork" (Ps 128: 1, 2a)

WORD:

Sir 3: 2-6/12-14/ Ps 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5/ Col 3: 12-21/ Lk 2: 22-40

ORDER:

- *Put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.* (Col 3: 14)

DIRECTIONS:

- Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another if one has a grievance against another.
- Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord.
- Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness towards them.
- Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.
- Do not provoke your children, so they may not be discouraged.



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A Model For All Families

REFLECTION:

The feast of the Holy Family is not only about the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus but about our families as well. The main objective of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for all Christian families. Our family life will be holy when we live the life of the church within our homes. Our children should exhibit respect, compassion and kindness toward their parents. Honor, respect and obedience to our parents will never be forgotten and are highly regarded as obedience to God.

As a family, parents must care, love and nurture their children at all times by putting God at the center of their family life, putting God first before anything else. The Holy Family's celebration demonstrates Jesus' humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment which is to Honor your mother and father; where children is the parents' joy when they are



young and their help and comfort when they get old. Children must learn to obey and love their parents in thought, word and action.

The peace of Christ must rule in our Hearts. For if there is peace there's love. Love teach us to forgive and forgiveness leads us all to Peace. No amount of wealth or success matters if we don't have peace in our family life. We must forgive and accept both the good and the not so pleasant among us. Pardon one another, understand each other's shortcomings and let us put away our pride and work in unison in serving in our Lord's vineyard. Jesus Christ forgave us and likewise we have to forgive each other too. For no one is perfect but our Lord Jesus Christ. For if there is Peace there is God, the God who brings love, joy, hope and salvation in our life.

As a family we should love each and every one without limits as our Lord. We

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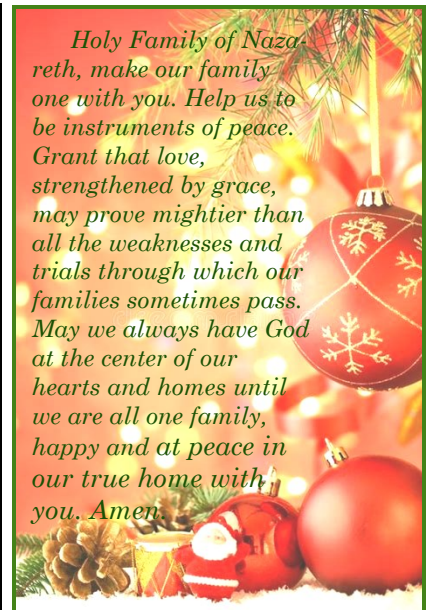
Tending the Flack

Christmas Is Feast Of The Family

On this Sunday following the Nativity of the Lord we are joyfully celebrating the Holy Family of Nazareth. It is a most suitable context because Christmas is the Feast of the family par excellence. This is demonstrated by numerous traditions and social customs, especially the practice of gathering together as a family for festive meals and for greetings and the exchange of gifts; and how can the hardship and suffering caused by certain family wounds which on these occasions are amplified go unnoticed? Jesus willed to be born and to grow up in a human family; he had the Virgin Mary as his mother and Joseph who acted as his father; they raised and educated him with immense love. Jesus' family truly deserves the title 'Holy', for it was fully engaged in the desire to do the will of God, incarnate in the adorable presence of Jesus. On the one hand, it was a family like all others and as such, it is a model of conjugal love, collaboration, sacrifice and entrustment to divine Providence, hard work and solidarity in short, of all those values that the family safeguards and promotes, making an important contribution to forming the fabric of every society. At the same time, however, the Family of Nazareth was unique, different from all other families because of its singular vocation linked to the mission of the Son of God. With precisely this uniqueness it points out to every family and in

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Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.



Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.
Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

December 15, 2023

Tithe :\$710.00
Love Offering :\$497.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962



God Of The Small

Hiddenness and smallness. God conceals himself in the smallness of a Child who is born, to a couple – Mary and Joseph – who are far from the spotlight, in the poverty of a stable because there was no room for them in the lodging. These are the distinctive traits of the Son of God, who will then present himself to the world as a tiny seed that dies, hidden in the earth, to bear fruit. He is the God of the small and the last, and with Him, we all learn the road to travel in order to enter the Kingdom of God: not an overt and artificial religiosity, but by becoming small, like children.

~ Pope Francis

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the first place to Christian families God's horizon, the sweet and demanding primacy of his will, the prospect of Heaven to which we are all destined. For all this, today we thank God, but also the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, who with much faith and willingness cooperated in the Lord's plan of salvation.

~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message
December 28, 2008

Party Time!

Loads of food, fun and friendships were shared at BLD-Trenton's annual Christmas Party last December 15. And no masquerade could hide the joyful faces that graced the night. Glory to God in the highest!

*"One heart, one voice,
one family in
Jesus Christ our Lord."*



God's Blessings

Birthday

Timothy Canete	12/22	George Pangan	12/26
Elner Jamolod	12/23	Nest Navarro	12/27
Nicole Salada	12/23	Sona David	12/29
Julienne Balcon	12/24	Rizal Mijares	12/30
Bill Calves	12/26	Zooy Gonzalez	12/31
Tony Corso	12/26	Ernest Roldan	12/31
Phil Delos Angeles	12/26	Emmanuett Nagbe	1/1
Christopher Eleazar	12/26	Grace Bustamante	1/3
Malou Yosuco	1/4		

Anniversary

Mon & Mense Miranda	12/22
Alden & Rose Nacionales	12/22
Tony & Mabel Bartocillo	12/27
Bert & Cora Velez	12/27
Bong & Julie Saria	12/28
Ringo & Fe Odon	12/28
Nino & Chicklette Fajardo	12/29
Arnold & Malou Paderon	12/29
Ernesto & Elora Kho	12/30
Joel & Estela Bermudo	1/1
Vic & Lucy Mabunay	1/2
Jay & Tet Edralin	1/4
Rene & Edna Perez	1/4

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must have compassion and practice Christian virtues like kindness, patience, supporting each other and forgiving one another. Let there be love, respect and obedience among us for this is pleasing to the Lord. With heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience let us be thankful for all the wonderful things and blessings that we received from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Trust God and always pray to Him for strength, wisdom and guidance for our family and for our community. Let us all prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. Through the mercy of God we will

move forward as a strong, committed and united family and community.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Son of Mary and Joseph, bless our family. St. Joseph, please protect our head of the family. Grant him the wisdom, strength and prudence for the support, love and protection that our family needs. To our dearest Mother Mary, please give all the mothers of our families a pure, strong yet gentle heart that will nourish us as we grow older. Lastly, bless us the children, help us to be obedient, loving and devoted to our parents. Keep our family safe from harm and discouragement at all times. Make our

family an instrument of peace as You graciously inspire in us unity, peace and mutual love.

We also ask the same thing for the Leaders and families of our BLD Trenton Community. Give us a strong, committed and humble servant heart so that we can all work as one in accomplishing the different missions that you want us to do.

Sweet Baby Jesus, make our family one with you. Teach us to fear the Lord and direct us to walk in His ways. May we always have God at the center of our hearts, homes and community now and forever. Amen.

