

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The Gospel tells us that Joseph "made his home in Nazareth." A *home* is built on a foundation of love, commitment, and shared history. It is decorated with forgiveness, discipline, acceptance, rituals, and mutual support. The Holy Family challenges us today:

Don't live 'anyplace', live at HOME!

God Speaks to His People

"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) Thus every Mass is a celebration of Christ's Incarnation, and this is expressed as soon as we join in the sign of the cross.

The Father came among us through the Son who said, "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father." The Son remains with us by the power of the Holy Spirit, through whom He took flesh in the Virgin womb and began to dwell among us.

Father Richard Veras,
Church of Saint Rita, Staten Island

Walton Schools Week-End Backpacks

Items may be dropped at Townsend Elementary, Ogden Library, or United Presbyterian, 58 East Street:

- peanut butter (18 oz)
- peas, beans, corn, carrots (8 oz)
- soup (chick, veg beef, tom) (10 oz)
- oatmeal (individual packet box)
- pasta, ravioli, beefaroni (indiv)
- granola, fruit 'n nut bars
- tuna (5 oz)
- pork n beans (11 oz)
- instant breakfast
- single serve cereal
- Ramen noodles
- raisin box, small

Jesus was not born in a palace but in a Bethlehem stable. Only a few people knew of His birth, until angels announced the unexpected event to startled shepherds. This Child Messiah did not arrive as a conquering king wearing a crown of gold. Instead, at His death He would wear a crown of thorns as He died on the cross for us.

Delhi Food Bank

Open Mondays, Thursdays from 1 to 3 pm at United Ministry. Items needed: powdered milk, condiments, canned meats, biscuit mix, dried herbs/seasonings, spaghetti sauce, tuna, cereal, soup, crackers, canned fruit and vegetables, macaroni 'n cheese, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, Jello, pudding, rice, flour, sugar.

New Year's Meditation

How easy it is to dismiss God when we think He is too distant or aloof from our life. How impatient and impetuous we are in this regard, but Simeon lived only to regard the Messiah. The peace of his aged soul came from assenting to God's promise. Nothing less could console him, for Simeon lived without a shred of compromise or vanity. He surrendered himself fully to God's Word.

In the darkness of New Year's Eve night, we await our Bridegroom, like the five wise and five foolish virgins. We do not fear that our lamps will run dry, for we come filled with the oil of divine Wisdom. We recognize the foolishness of attempting to live by our own ideas and opinions ~ our own false enlightenment. We carry with us the light of the Truth.

It is so easy to give in to despair when God's ways fail to be our way. Like the lame man who lay by the Sheep Pool thirty-eight years waiting for his chance to be the first to get into the stirred-up water, we lose hope of ever being healed. We become despondent, thinking about the trials and anguish of our life will never change. Yet, Jesus comes to that man, *not* to lift him up, but to fill him with the strength to rise, pick up his mat, *and walk*.

Do we expect enough from God? Does His hiddenness intimidate us and stir us up? Christ will come without delay. To meet Him with joy we need only devote ourselves to the teachings of the Church. For that sacred doctrine fills us with the steadfastness we need to give ourselves wholly to God, to wait for His appearance at the wedding feast, and to respond to His miraculous power when we feel let down and forgotten.

The enlightenment of our baptism fills us with the wisdom we need to live by faith. How did Simeon know that the tiny Child carried into the Temple was the Son of God? From the holiness radiating from the Mother of God. United with Mary, model of the Church, we await our salvation. Peter John Cameron, OP

