

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF Dec. 27-28, 2025**

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

When the magi had departed, behold,  
the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,  
“Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt,  
and stay there until I tell you.  
Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.”  
Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night  
and departed for Egypt.  
He stayed there until the death of Herod,  
that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled,  
*Out of Egypt I called my son.*

When Herod had died, behold,  
the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream  
to Joseph in Egypt and said,  
“Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel,  
for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”  
He rose, took the child and his mother,  
and went to the land of Israel.  
But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea  
in place of his father Herod,  
he was afraid to go back there.  
And because he had been warned in a dream,  
he departed for the region of Galilee.  
He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth,  
so that what had been spoken through the prophets  
might be fulfilled,  
*He shall be called a Nazorean.*

**Intercession**

May we, like Joseph, be mindful of the workings of our loving Father in our lives, including help for the needy through the ministries the Catholic Ministry Appeal supports.

**Bulletin Announcement**

When God sends an angel to warn Joseph about Herod’s plan to kill Jesus, He demonstrates how deeply involved He wishes to be in our lives. God is not some remote, disinterested

Creator, watching what is going on in the world from afar. Rather, God wants to share in our joys and console us in our sorrows. Our Lord understands our suffering, intimately. With Jesus' birth, God becomes fully human, experiencing happiness and affliction alike. In living among us, God adopts our frailty and embraces us in our fears.

God came to earth through the birth of Jesus. He came to Joseph through dreams and deliverance. Today, God comes to us in so many equally tangible ways: through the love of our spouses, the care of our parents, the laughs of our children, the kindness of our neighbors, the humor of our best friend, the affection of our pets, even the splendor of a sunset.

Let us open our eyes to see Our Lord working in our lives. Let us open our ears to hear His voice guiding us to a fuller life in Christ. Let us open our hearts to make room for God in our hectic daily round. And even in times of darkness, let us live in the light of hope and share with others this light that comes from Our Heavenly Father through our prayers and a gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

### **Pulpit Announcement**

Today's Gospel reminds us that danger and darkness are a part of our living today just as they were for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. But God is always with us in these times of distress. We may not hear His consolation and guidance as dramatically as Joseph did, in his dreams, but God never abandons us. The "Herods" of today — those who act out of hate, greed, violence, desire for power — can be overwhelming at times, but the Gospel also assures us that darkness gives way to light. New beginnings abound.

Jesus' birth is a new beginning for humanity. It's a dramatic demonstration that God so loved the His creation that He sent His own son to be our savior. Christ's birth portends His death and resurrection, another startling new beginning — the beginning of the Church Jesus first entrusts to Peter and the apostles and now to us, His modern-day disciples.

Matthew's Gospel reading today is also full of new beginnings for the Holy Family. First, God leads them safely to Egypt to escape Herod's death threat. Then the protective Heavenly Father leads them back to Israel, to their new home in Nazareth, once they are no longer in peril. It is a reminder that no matter how bleak things may be, no matter how lost or displaced we feel, we can always start fresh with the Lord. And we can trust that God will there by our side, guiding us and giving us strength, as He did for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

We can pay this forward and help others begin anew with Our God when we make a gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal. Please prayerfully consider bringing Christ's light to those experiencing darkness with your support.



**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: The desert at sunrise or sunset OR someone hiking in the desert

Header: “Out of Egypt I called my son” – Matthew 2:15

Copy: Rely in the Lord, who does not fail! Our Lord will always provide, and we can be God’s emissaries on earth, helping those in need by supporting our parish’s efforts for the Catholic Ministry Appeal.