



## Gospel: 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.

## Gospel Meditation

Who can explain suffering, especially the suffering of innocent children? Herod's massacre of children who gave their lives for a person and a truth they did not know seemed so useless and unjust. What a scandal and stumbling block for those who can't recognize God's redeeming love. Why couldn't God prevent this slaughter? Suffering is indeed a mystery. No explanation seems to satisfy our human craving to understand. What does Paul the Apostle mean when he says: *We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called to his purpose* (Romans 8:28)? These innocent children and their parents suffered for Christ.

Suffering, persecution, and martyrdom are the lot of all who chose to follow Jesus Christ. There is no crown without the cross. It was through Jesus' suffering, humiliation, and death on a cross, that our salvation was won. His death won life — eternal life for us. And his blood which was shed for our sake obtained pardon and reconciliation with our heavenly Father. Suffering takes many forms: illness, disease, handicap, physical pain and emotional trauma, slander and abuse, poverty, and injustice. Jesus exclaimed that those who weep, who are reviled and persecuted for righteousness sake are blessed (Matthew 5:10-12). The word *blessed* [*makarios* in the Greek] literally means *happiness* or *beatitude*. It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "*no one will take your joy from you*" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the joy of a life fully surrendered to God with faith and trust?

"Lord, you gave your life for my sake, to redeem me from slavery to sin and death. Help me to carry my cross with joy that I may willingly do your will and not shrink back out of fear or cowardice when trouble besets me."

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# Reflection

## First Reading

*Q: The fourth commandment is based upon a deeper command from God: love others as self. Love assumes and builds up respect. How have you shown love and respect to your family members? How have you expected such treatment in return?*

## For Responsorial Psalm

*Q: How is your family a blessing to you?*

*Q: Thank God for the blessing of your family. Ask blessing on your immediate and extended family.*

## For Reading 2

*Q: What do you bring to Mass on Sunday? Baggage and a fighting spirit? Or a thankful heart? Honestly reflect on the quality of your worship. Ask God to heal the hurt. Place all burdens in his hands. And thank him for his grace.*

## For the Gospel

*Q: Do you look forward to the end of the Christmas season? Why?.*

*Q: Review the holidays. Place the joys and sorrows of the holidays before the Lord. How do you see God working with you this past season? How is he working with you now?*

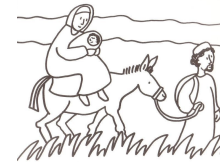
Sources: [dailyscripture.net](http://dailyscripture.net); [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org); [word-Sunday.org](http://word-Sunday.org)



*Share the Word Sunday Reflection*

FOR DECEMBER 28, 2025

*The Feast of the Holy Family*



Out of Egypt I called my son

**First Reading: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1Sm 1:20-22, 24-28**

I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD.

**Responsorial: Psalm 128: 1-5 or Psalm 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10**

*R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways; or R: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

**Second Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21 or 3: 12-17 or 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23**

“Out of Egypt I called my son.”

*"Lord Jesus, you came to restore us to unity with the Father in heaven. Where there is division, bring healing and pardon. May all peoples and families find peace, wholeness, and unity in you, the Prince of Peace and Savior of the world."*

Question of the Week: Where are you most likely to find Jesus ?