



## The Word

### **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph** *Week of December 29*

#### ***Call to Prayer and Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader invites all into a few moments of silent reflection to remember that we are in the presence of God. (reflective pause)*
- ✦ *Then: "In the name of the Father and of the Son . . . ."*

#### ***The Word of God***

- ✦ *Leader reads part or all of one of the scripture texts from the previous Sunday.*

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.

### ***Faith Sharing***

- ✦ *Leader reminds everyone of the Question of the Week which relates to the particular group gathered . . . .*

**Children:** When you pray, how does God seem to speak to you?

**Teens:** God speaks to us in our intuitions and imagination, as Joseph learned in his dream. What is your experience of hearing God speak to you?

**Adults:** What experiences do you have of God “speaking to you” and directing your life and work?

We offer this form of contemplative sharing for pondering Scripture while considering the question, and for the faith sharing which follows.

- Listen/ Read (Lectio): Ponder God’s word and listen for what touches your heart.
- Meditate (Meditatio): Notice what you notice. Allow God’s word to resonate in you.
- Speak/Share (Oratio): Prayerfully share with the group your thoughts and feelings.
- Rest in God’s presence (Contemplatio): Notice God’s presence and be still, surrounded by God’s love.
- Choose to act (Actio): Trusting in God’s nearness, commit to action rooted in love.

*Time is provided for sharing responses to the question. Silence between responses is to be expected. Allow about 15 minutes for faith sharing. For larger groups, leader invites members to divide into groups of three or four for faith sharing.*

- ✦ *When the sharing comes to an end, the leader invites everyone to take a moment to silently and reverently hold what has been shared together.*
- ✦ *Continue with the meeting, turning to the agenda.*

### ***Concluding the meeting***

*At the end of the meeting, the leader closes with the following prayer:*

Good and Gracious God,  
your love for us surpasses all understanding.  
As we leave here today,  
be with us in all our comings and goings,  
and in all that we say and do.  
We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus who is our Light.  
Amen.