**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – Year A**

**COMMENTATOR GUIDE.**

**Introduction:**

Good morning / evening we welcome our parishioners and visitors to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

The feast of the Holy Family, celebrated during the Christmas week, reminds us that the Saviour is born into a family. The Son of God, in order to draw us back to the Father, becomes a member of the human family. He shares not only the love and affection of Mary and Joseph but also the fragility and danger they face because of poverty and injustice. May the Lord Jesus, who has come to be part of the human family, bless all our families.

Our Mass will be celebrated today by

Please stand and join In singing the entrance hymn.

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**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading (Sir 3:2-6. 12-14)**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children,

and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,

he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.

Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,

he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,

he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,

do not grieve him during his life.

Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,

do not despise him in your health and strength;

for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten

but will serve as reparation for your sins.

***The Word of the Lord***

**Responsorial Psalm (Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3)**

***(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.***

**1.** O blessed are those who fear the Lord

and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

**2.** Your wife like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table.( R.)

**3.** Indeed thus shall be blessed

the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

all the days of your life!. (R.)

**Second Reading (Col 3:12-21)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God’s chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

*The Word of the Lord*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,

and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

**Gospel (Mt 2:13-15. 19-23)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.’ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod’s death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.’ So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee.

There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH – YEAR A**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** — Let us pray to our heavenly Father who sent his Son to become a member of the human family. May all families recognize and honour him as a loving father.

**Reader:** Loving Father, bless Pope Francis, our bishops, priests, deacons, religious men and women, and lay leaders. May their lives mirror your loving mercy for all, especially the poor and the weak.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Loving Father, bless our government officials. May they lead by good example, promote peace and prosperity among the people, and support families beset by calamity, injustice, and poverty.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Loving Father, bless all parents and grandparents. Like Mary and Joseph, may they be models of upright living, love, and generosity.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Loving Father, bless all children. Like Jesus, may they grow not only in size and strength, but also in your favour, and in the favour of their families and communities.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Loving Father, bless the families that are severely tried by separation and by problems related to drugs and sexual abuse. May parents and children rebuild their homes through hard work, love, and forgiveness. We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For those who have died. In particular, those mention in our parish bulletin. May God’s merciful love shine on them and their loved ones left behind.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer for the Season of Christmas.**

**All:** Loving God, During this holy season of Christmas we ask for your blessing on all families.

Let Mary’s openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph’s courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus’ life ignite all families with a spirit of life and love.

May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families.

**Priest:** Father in heaven, you have honoured our human family by sending your Son to live as one of us. Grant that we may learn from the example of the Holy Family on how to honour you in our lives. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.