

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



December 29, 2013

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Lectionary: 17

Gospel [Mt 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*.

Spiritual Reflection:

In Christ's birth, God touches human history: hope reigns, justice takes root, peace is possible. The challenge to each one of us is to take on the work of "Emmanuel" - to make God's presence visible and real by being his "arms" for the hurting, his "hands" to the needy, his "heart" for the grieving. The first place to start is our families

Spiritual Questions:

1. How does God willingness to get messy by becoming human mean to you?
2. Was Joseph's decision to move to Nazareth a decision influence by God?
3. What was a Nazorean and how did God fulfill the prophecy?
4. Archelaus was the son of Herod and was suspected to act like Herod. Jesus was the son of God and stepson of Joseph and would be expected to act like Joseph. How does being a child of God mean you should act?
5. How can you bring peace to your family?