

# Daily Reading December 30th

## Reading 1, *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*

<sup>2</sup> for the Lord honours the father above his children and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. <sup>3</sup> Whoever respects a father expiates sins, <sup>4</sup> whoever honours a mother is like someone amassing a fortune. <sup>5</sup> Whoever respects a father will in turn be happy with children, the day he prays for help, he will be heard. <sup>6</sup> Long life comes to anyone who honours a father, whoever obeys the Lord makes a mother happy. <sup>12</sup> My child, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. <sup>13</sup> Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; <sup>14</sup> for kindness to a father will not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

## Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5*

<sup>1</sup> [Song of Ascents] How blessed are all who fear Yahweh, who walk in his ways! <sup>2</sup> Your own labours will yield you a living, happy and prosperous will you be.

<sup>3</sup> Your wife a fruitful vine in the inner places of your house. Your children round your table like shoots of an olive tree.

<sup>4</sup> Such are the blessings that fall on those who fear Yahweh.

<sup>5</sup> May Yahweh bless you from Zion! May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life,

## **Reading 2, *Colossians 3:12-21***

<sup>12</sup> As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same.

<sup>14</sup> Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. <sup>15</sup> And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the Word 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; <sup>17</sup> and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.

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

<sup>13</sup> After they had left, suddenly 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.' <sup>14</sup> So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> After Herod's death, suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> 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.' <sup>21</sup> So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> 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 withdrew to the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Wives, be subject to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be sharp with them. <sup>20</sup> Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is

what will please the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Parents, do not irritate your children or they will lose heart.