

Lenten Reflections

March 19, 2020



St Francis Receiving the Stigmata – El Greco – Public Domain

<https://art.thewalters.org/detail/6457/saint-francis-receiving-the-stigmata-2/>

Parental Expectations

The birth of a child is cause for celebration and thanksgiving. Babies are a wonderment and a miracle. In maternity rooms around the world, you can hear new mothers and fathers talking about the marvelous accomplishments that their “Little Johnnies” and “Little Janies” will make in the world when they become adults. They take great care and consideration in selecting their child’s name.

Some parents give their children names in hopes that they will grow healthy and live up to their expectations. Names like: Rich, Prudence, Charity, Princess, or Mark are bestowed. One of our Chinese students told me the translation of her name means “Elegant Persistence.” She said her name was “a hope for her life given to her from her parents.” I saw on *Sunday Morning* a story about a boy named Billion, whose parents’ names Mr. & Mrs. Ayre. And lastly, today is my brother’s birthday. My mother has always loved the name Joseph. She has always absolutely adored it. When she gave birth to a 4 lb. 11 oz. (2-month premature) boy on March 19th, the feast day of St. Joseph, you guessed it --- she named him. . . William (after my father).

Two thousand twenty years ago, a child was born with great expectations in a manger. We all know the story. Two thousand twenty years ago, he was born with an assured promise, bestowed upon him by the Father. In Matthew 21, we are told that Mary will bear a son and Joseph (the earthly stepfather) will “name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” In Matthew 23, we are told, “they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” He would be known by other titles and called by other names: King of Kings, Savior of the World, Prince of Peace, Redeemer, The Truth, and Lamb of God.

In Matthew 3:17, the Father calls Jesus, "My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (I bet Joseph and Mary said that to each other all the time when Jesus was young.)

Let us all be thankful for the people we call parents. Let us be thankful for love of Jesus. And, let us be thankful for the blessings we have received from our Father.

Jodi Shelly, MLIS & MBA, Director of University Libraries

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Lectionary: 543

Reading 1 [2 SM 7:4-5A, 12-14A, 16](#)

The LORD spoke to Nathan and said:
"Go, tell my servant David,
'When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors,
I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins,
and I will make his kingdom firm.
It is he who shall build a house for my name.
And I will make his royal throne firm forever.
I will be a father to him,
and he shall be a son to me.
Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;
your throne shall stand firm forever.'"

Responsorial Psalm [89:2-3, 4-5, 27 AND 29](#)

R. (37) The son of David will live for ever.
The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness,
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. The son of David will live for ever.
"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations."

R. The son of David will live for ever.
"He shall say of me, 'You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.'
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. The son of David will live for ever.

Reading 2 [ROM 4:13, 16-18, 22](#)

Brothers and sisters:

It was not through the law
that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants
that he would inherit the world,
but through the righteousness that comes from faith.
For this reason, it depends on faith,
so that it may be a gift,
and the promise may be guaranteed to all his descendants,
not to those who only adhere to the law
but to those who follow the faith of Abraham,
who is the father of all of us, as it is written,
I have made you father of many nations.
He is our father in the sight of God,
in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead
and calls into being what does not exist.
He believed, hoping against hope,
that he would become *the father of many nations*,
according to what was said, *Thus shall your descendants be.*
That is why it was credited to him as righteousness.

Verse Before The Gospel [PS 84:5](#)

Blessed are those who dwell in your house, O Lord;
they never cease to praise you.

Gospel [MT 1:16, 18-21, 24A](#)

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
“Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”
When Joseph awoke,

he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.

or

[Lk 2:41-51a](#)

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,
and when he was twelve years old,
they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning,
the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan,
they journeyed for a day
and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances,
but not finding him,
they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions,
and all who heard him were astounded
at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him,
they were astonished,
and his mother said to him,

"Son, why have you done this to us?

Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

And he said to them,

"Why were you looking for me?

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to them.