



As the dawn breaks on a new year,
let us give thanks for all we hold dear:
our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger
and our pains, for these are nothing but
binding chains. Let us live each day in
the most loving ways, the God-conscious
way. Let us serve all who are in need,
regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding
in our hearts and to chant God's name
each day. Let us lead the world from
darkness to light, from falsehood to
truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one,
embracing all, discriminating against none.

• May your year be filled with
peace, prosperity and love. May God's
blessings shower upon you and bestow
upon each of you a bright, healthy
and peaceful new year.”

REV. MARCY SHEREMETTA



*Happy birthday to anyone celebrating their
birthday this week*

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Welcome to Worship

**First Sunday after
Christmas**

29th December 2019

**We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to
have you worshipping with us today ...**

Our Mission is to

- **Know God personally**
- **Love and respect one another deeply**
- **Disciple and serve those around us**

Sentence: Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is
able to help those who are being tested.

Hebrews 2:18

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created,
and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature:
in your mercy,
bring us to share the divine life of Jesus Christ,
who came to share our human life,
and who now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Next Week:

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12



First Sunday after Christmas

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream: "Rise, take the child and his mother; flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."

Matthew's Gospel continues his story of Jesus' early years, focusing on the evangelist's principal theme: that Jesus is the Messiah promised by

God long ago. Matthew portrays the Holy Family as outcasts, refugees in their own country. Bound together by love and trust in God and in one another, they embark on the dangerous journey to Egypt to flee the insane rage of Herod. Jesus relives the Exodus experience of Israel: he will come out of Egypt, the land of slavery, to establish a new covenant of liberation for the new Israel.

Today's Feast of the Holy Family calls us to re-discover and celebrate our own families as harbors of forgiveness and understanding and safe places of unconditional love, welcome and acceptance.

The Holy Family is a model for our families as we confront the many tensions and crises that threaten the stability, peace and unity that are the joys of being a family.

Matthew's Gospel of Mary and Joseph's escape to Egypt has been lived by countless families in every place and time. Today's Feast of the Holy Family confronts us with the struggle of many families to escape the brutality and cruelty of the Herod's of our time, seeking a new life in whatever Egypt they can find – and God's call to us, as their brothers and sisters, to make a place for them where they will find safety, justice and dignity as God's own.

Matthew's Gospel of the Holy Family's fleeing the murderous wrath of Herod portends what is to come: the Christmas crib is overshadowed by the cross of Holy Week, that this holy birth is the beginning of our rebirth in the resurrection.

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Happy New Year to one and all may the year ahead be filled with God's blessings

Please pray for: Paul; Colleen & Ted; Ernie; Karen; Russ; Roma; Marge; John; Bev; Jan; Helen; Lynne; Frances; Carly; Rowan; Brad; George; Helen; Ruth; Peter; Ross, Felicity & Valda; Lois; Amy; Lex; Kim

