

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we are invited to reflect on the profound example they set for every Christian family and for our entire parish community, which is a family of faith. The home in Nazareth was an ordinary home, filled with daily toil, work, and the realities of human life, yet it was made holy by the presence of God at its center and the virtues practiced within its walls.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that no family is perfect. God enters into the reality of our imperfect and sometimes broken lives, offering grace and mercy for our struggles. For those struggling with illness, family conflict, or economic hardship, know that the Holy Family intercedes for us. Let us embrace our own family lives with enthusiasm and hope, striving to grow in holiness by practicing the virtues exemplified by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. May our homes be sanctuaries of light, peace, and forgiveness, reflecting the enduring love of God to a world in need.

Last Sunday we celebrated a Christmas Posada in Stack Center after the 1:00pm Mass in Spanish. It was truly a wonderful event that brought many of us together and created a witness of faith through shared song, food (tamales), game (piñata!), and prayer, creating a "family" atmosphere.

As Franciscan Friars, you are our immediate family. The Friars and I thank you for making us feel at home. We are deeply grateful for your support and understanding and are committed to serving you to the best of our abilities. Please continue to pray for us, especially for a complete recovery of Fr. Raphael. Also, be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones during this holy season and into the New Year.

As we look towards the New Year, let us entrust our families to the care of Mary and Joseph. May we, as *"Pilgrims of Hope"*, reflect God's love in our daily lives.

May I remind you that our Parish Office will be closed on December 31st-January 1st, 2026.

Still Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Fr. Luke
Parochial Vicar