

Third Friday of Advent, December 17 Gn 49: 2, 8 – 10

Hope, Love, Faith, and Peace are four virtues that the birth of Jesus introduces to us; they are also Advent's themed celebrations leading us to Christmas. These virtues start off a season that's full of magical moments, miraculous times and everlasting memories that we create with family and friends. Today's readings of Mathew's Gospel on the Genealogy of Jesus emphasizes more to us how important family is in our personal life as well as in building a society on a solid foundation . Family is not only blood related; it's any person in our lives that helps us achieve and experience any of the Hope, Love , Faith and peace in our daily moments and situations. Jesus came and dwelt among us to be a part of our family and to enjoy a personal relationship with Him. This intimacy that Jesus so eagerly desires if pursued by us will give us the foundation that carries us through life's unexpected turns and bumps. Recently I have personally needed to reach out to this foundation for the FAITH to know everything will be Ok, the LOVE to support my family when my Father was diagnosed with Cancer, the HOPE to strengthen us to attain the PEACE. Jesus connects all together by his Love and also through the family and special people that he puts in our way. Family is not only defined by our DNA, it's those precious and sometimes-defining moments that make a stranger feel like family. Merry Christmas to all and may we appreciate Jesus's Love all year round.

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