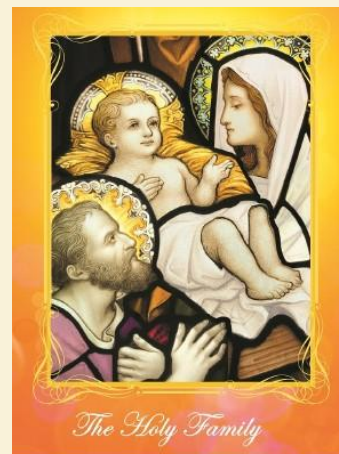




*From the Desk of Father Peter*

## *The Holy Family is a Sign of Hope to All Families*

*This is the Sunday of the year when most people can look out in the church and sometimes see people poking one another during the Scripture readings. In the first reading, parents poke children to remind them that the Scriptures admonish the attitudes of honor, reverence, and kindness. It is an amazing sight to see from the altar.*



*God still speaks to us in varied and wonderful ways.*

*If we read Scripture carefully, we will find that the Holy Family had their share of troubles and difficulties. Joseph cared for and protected the child and his mother by obeying the will of God without hesitancy. Mary, too, searched for God's will as she pondered the words spoken to her by Simeon in the Temple, as well as the various events in her life. Both Mary and Joseph obeyed God even when the future was uncertain. Jesus, too, had to learn obedience to his parents. They were worried and concerned about His whereabouts when they lost Him for three days in Jerusalem.*

*As faithful Catholics we need to remember that the Holy Family too was once a family of immigrants and refugees. Mary—our Mother and Mother of God, had an intimate understanding of suffering, flight, homelessness, and uncertainty. As Catholics preparing to enter into a new year with our families with all the uncertainties of tomorrow, we have to look at what we have right in front of us as a family, at what we could become, and stop*

*measuring it against what we may have lost. We are family; we are called to share our past and envision our future in Christ. These events help us to realize just how human the Holy Family really was, and how much they have to teach our own families. Through the ups and downs of life, they stayed close to God. We can remember that we have been chosen by God to be part of his family and have been promised the Holy Spirit to teach, guide, and comfort us. There is no perfect family but this one—the Holy Family. I fondly remember that someone once said: Having a place to go—is a home. Having someone to love—is a family. Having both—is a blessing.*

*When we are in harmony with God's will, then we are at peace, and peace will flow into our dealings with each other—family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Our actions and our attitudes will reflect our Christian faith if we strive daily to search out and be open to the will of God in our lives. May each family, regardless of circumstances, approach this New Year with a sense of harmony like the Holy Family and strive to live in peace.*



*Peace and love to all families,*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*