



The Family of Nazareth

This sacred image is an original composition using traditional iconographic language. It depicts the home life of the Holy Family at Nazareth where St. Joseph provided for his family and taught his foster son the trade of carpentry. The Blessed Virgin is engaged in household work, but her basket of red yarn and knitting needles symbolizes the flesh that she has provided for the second person of the Trinity suggestive of the Scriptures passages "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5), and "you knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13b). The triangular arrangement of the figures directs the eye to the child Jesus, who is building a temple from blocks. That temple will stand but a brief time, foreshadowing the salvific work soon to be accomplished in the temple of his body destroyed and raised up (John 2:19). This scene is a model of Christian community based on prayer, teaching, work, sharing and love.