

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 27, 2020

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3

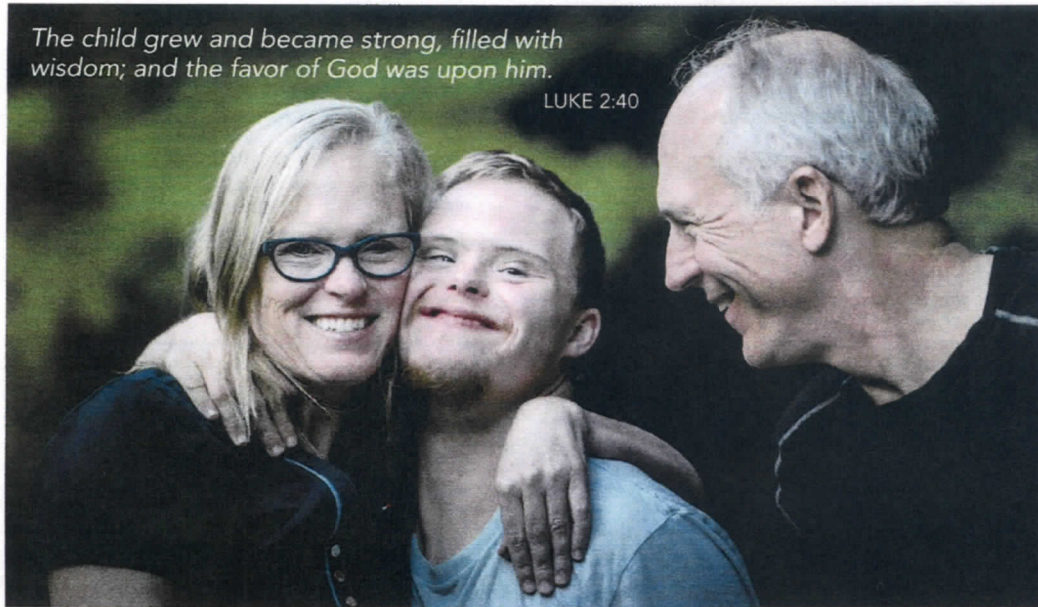
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

LUKE 2:40



Family Values

Some of the most popular television programs depict family interactions. Unfortunately, many of these families are dysfunctional, and those that are not often appear to be vapid, boring, even unrealistic. Today's readings offer examples of genuine family values and the kind of relationships for which most people yearn.

Sirach describes the tender care that bonds parents and children. First it is the parents who care for the children. Over the years the roles reverse and adult children care for elderly parents. The family is the basic community, where one first learns the hard lessons of unselfishness and forgiveness. The psalm response also describes a model family. The husband will experience success in his work and enjoy the blessings of family life with his wife and their children. Paul provides a list of values to which family members should

commit themselves: "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12-13). Finally, the Gospel reading provides a glimpse into the lives of the Holy Family. Here they are: a refugee family with Joseph as the protector.

In a way, these are all "holy families." Prayer is important in the first reading; fear of the Lord is rewarded in the psalm; Paul calls the people "God's chosen ones" (Colossians 3:12). This feast is not meant to be only a look into the past at the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for us to look into the present and do our part to make our own families holy.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- What already makes your family holy?
- What might make it holier?

Dear Padre,

Why does the Church celebrate the Holy Family? Jesus doesn't seem to be much of a family person. Scripture show him ignoring—even rejecting—Mary and Joseph.

As Jesus grows in age and wisdom, it becomes clear that he hasn't come to build up his own little family but to create a worldwide family of disciples. This family would claim God as the father of everyone in the family, with Jesus and all others as brothers and sisters. All who followed him would be as dear to Jesus as his mother or his foster father. As Jesus said: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you" (John 15:9).

The roles of Mary and Joseph in this new family of Jesus were not to be only earthbound parents but, more importantly, to be examples of how to follow God's purpose. Both Mary and Joseph accepted God's path for them, even though they didn't know where the path would take them.

In the new family of God, we are people who seek out and follow God's purpose in our lives. We are to say yes with Mary; we are to imitate Joseph in following God's direction. Jesus said this quite plainly: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). The will of God becomes the cornerstone of Jesus' new, universal family of humankind. Every Christian family, then, has a double task in raising their children: teaching and inspiring them to love and believe in Jesus and to always seek God's will.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



HOLY FAMILY - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL, EAST TIMOR - WIKICOMMONS



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him....Returning home, Jesus surely remained close to them, as a sign of his complete affection and obedience. Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family.

—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

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Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 28

*Holy Innocents,
Martyrs*

1 Jn 1:5—2:2

Mt 2:13—18

Tuesday

DECEMBER 29

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:3—11

Lk 2:22—35

Wednesday

DECEMBER 30

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:12—17

Lk 2:36—40

Thursday

DECEMBER 31

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:18—21

Jn 1:1—18

Friday

JANUARY 1

*Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God*

Nm 6:22—27

Gal 4:4—7

Lk 2:16—21

Saturday

JANUARY 2

*Sts. Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen,*

*Bishops and Doctors
of the Church*

1 Jn 2:22—28

Jn 1:19—28

Sunday

JANUARY 3

Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1—6

Eph 3:2—3a, 5—6

Mt 2:1—12

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