

Dear Padre,

I've been trying to teach my children about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Any advice?

It's easy to teach young children about the works of mercy if you keep it simple and call their attention to what they're doing.

When they set the table and pour drinks, tell them they're feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. When they bring homework to a sick classmate, they're visiting the sick. If they go to a funeral, they're helping bury the dead. When they make up with their siblings after a fight, they bear wrongs patiently and forgive all injuries. Siblings who help each other with their homework are instructing the "ignorant."

A child who soothes someone who's been hurt is comforting the sorrowful. Praying for anyone, living or dead, is a spiritual work of mercy. Listening when someone confides in them is counseling the doubtful. Talking a friend or sibling out of doing something wrong is admonishing the sinner.

As your children get older, volunteer as a family with organizations that build homes for low-income families and help the children of prisoners.

Performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, whether for each other or with each other, will bring you closer as a family as well as closer to God.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



PIKES/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

The works of mercy reawaken in us the need, and the ability, to make the faith alive and active with charity. I am convinced that, through these simple, daily actions, we can achieve a true cultural revolution....If every one of us, every day, does one of these, this will be a revolution in the world!

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 12, 2016

Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 27
St. John,
Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday
DECEMBER 28
The Holy Innocents,
Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2
Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday
DECEMBER 29
Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Thursday
DECEMBER 30
Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Friday
DECEMBER 31
Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:18-21
Jn 1:1-18

Saturday
JANUARY 1
Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

Sunday
JANUARY 2
Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2:1-12e

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.



A Redemptorist Ministry

Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 26, 2021

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (C)
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24
Lk 2:41-52



[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.
LUKE 2:51

All in the Family

So many family-oriented television programs today feature the antics of dysfunctional families. They're often so well produced that we laugh at the blundering exploits, thus giving them credibility. The readings for today's feast show us what a real family looks like. Parents worry about the security of their children (Luke); brothers and sisters are told to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient (Colossians); elders are respected and cared for in their need (Sirach). Even the psalm response sketches the profile of a flourishing family as understood at that time.

We can only guess what the Holy Family must have been like. There is no indication that their neighbors saw them as anything more than an average family. Jesus learned Joseph's trade and, most likely, would take over the business after he died. Instead, he launched out as an itinerant preacher. Even that does not seem to have been so exceptional for that time. Nor was Mary's widowhood reason for him to stay home. The Gospels indicate that she was part of a protective family unit. This did not appear to be an exceptional family. But how exceptional it was!

The lesson is that even an average family has the potential to be a holy family. What we should do is pattern our lives after Paul's exhortation to the Colossians. If we live like this, we will discover that holiness is all in the family.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- What might you do to make family life easier for those with whom you live?
- Do you show gratitude to your family for their respect and care of you?



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 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
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Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 26, 9:00 a.m.—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Servers: Volunteers

Reader: Mike Borekelman

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (color: White)

1/1/2022 Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Maggie Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Gwen Waechter

Sunday - 1/2/2022 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (color: White)

Servers: Cade Berning, Joce Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Alvin Bergkamp

Monday, Dec. 27	8:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Tuesday, Dec. 28	8:00 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff
Thursday, Dec. 30	8:00 a.m.	Special Int. (Powers Family)
Friday, Dec. 31	6:00 p.m.	Special Int. (Smith Family)
Saturday, Jan. 1	4: 00 p.m.	Family of Roman
Sunday, Jan. 2	9:00 a.m.	Carter Brown

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH— DECEMBER 26, 2021



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You and your Family !

Friends, yesterday we celebrated Christmas, but today we are celebrating the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. And while it's a day to take a close look at the Holy Family, to admire the Holy Family, and to give thanks to God for them and for their example, it's also a chance for us to look at our individual families. And not just in a superficial way, but to actually think about what can/should/will make our families holy. What does it take?

All relationships can be strengthened, even those that are wounded badly. Every single family can grow in mercy and generosity and love. But we'll never do it by trying to control others. We can't make people who we want them to be. That's not our task, nor is it even possible. The only things in our control are the choices we make --- the love we choose to give or withhold. And that alone, those changes in even one person --- you or me --- can make our families a little better, a little stronger, a little more holy.

So let's keep Jesus close, and see what wonderful things he has in store for us and for our families. With God there are no dead-ends. Our families' best days can always be ahead. May we help make those better days a reality. And Mary and Joseph, please pray for us --- that our families may come to reflect the best in yours. Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for December 19, 2021: Envelopes: \$535.00; Loose: \$168.00; Online Giving: \$405.37; Total \$ 1108.37; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under - 652.80.

Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

LOOKING AHEAD

New Year's Eve Mass—Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God in Lakin —December 31 at 6:00 p.m.

PARISH POST CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR DINNER Wednesday January 5, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Each family is to bring a salad or vegetable or a side dish or dessert if it is possible. Thank you.

K of C Meeting will be Wednesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.

VOCATION VIEW Are you called to serve the family of the Lord and share the Father's love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother?

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (from the Blessings for a Family or Household from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers) O God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. Shower your blessings on our



families. Enable us to support one another by our fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make us responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to our faith in all that we say and do. Amen.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS Thank to all who generously contributed to the Christmas Flower this year. Thanks to All and God Bless! **In MEMORY/IN HONOR OF**

Rice Family & Cahoy Family—Req. by Stan and Nan Rice

Waechter Family & Sullivan Family req. by Janey Sullivan

Linda Noe Req. by Dale & Lisa Gannett

Chuck Sullivan; Kathi Sullivan; & Sondra Adams Req. by Phyllis Sullivan

Geubelle & Lane Families Req. by Steve & Marge

Edwards Family & Yardley Family Req. by Delores & Tim Edwards

Joshua Skipton; Jesse & Carol Skipton; & Alfonso Sandoval Req. by Michael Skipton

Rooney & Darnell Family Req. by Bill & Janet Rooney

Conine & Koons loved ones Req. by John Koons Family

Michelle & David Bergkamp; Elizabeth Hueghes; Charles & Mary Margaret Schrufer; Heath Villitua; &

Wilfred & Anna Bergkamp Req. by Alvin & Suellen Bergkamp

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Luke 2:41-52)

Another holy family Like Hannah and Elkanah, Mary and Joseph are unmistakably devout: each year they undertake the long, arduous journey to Jerusalem for Passover. They travel with relatives and other villagers, as much for safety as for fellowship. Jesus shows his own devotion to God by going to the temple alone and conversing with the teachers there. He also upholds God's law by obeying his parents: he returns home with them to Nazareth, where he continues to thrive in their care.

From a young age In other literature of this era there are stories in which influential figures show strength, wisdom, or some other skill or virtue at a young age. In a similar way, the child Jesus demonstrates remarkable wisdom, a keen interest in his religious heritage, and respect for his elders.

Foreshadowing As an adult, Jesus will again separate himself from his family. He will defy whatever expectations they have in order to undertake a ministry that will ultimately lead him back to Jerusalem. The story also points to a theme of Luke's Gospel: Jesus came to seek the lost (15; 19:1-10). Here it seems as if Jesus is lost, but in truth he has begun to find his purpose. By noting that Jesus' parents searched for him for three days, Luke also points ahead to the Resurrection. After his crucifixion Jesus will seem lost to his followers. When the tomb is found empty, he will seem lost again. As Jesus' followers slowly learn, however, Jesus remains with all of them, and through them he continues to seek — and to save — the lost.

What did Jesus know about himself? It's not clear what exactly Jesus means by "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" He clearly senses that he has a particular calling or vocation. He may also sense that he has a relationship with God unlike any other. We can't assume that Jesus knew he was the Son of God, however, because then we risk denying Jesus his full humanity. (www.oursundayreadings)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (I Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28)

Bearing children For years Hannah had been unable to conceive a child. At this point in history, infant mortality was high. The main way women contributed to their tribe and nation was by having children. The inability to do so often felt like a punishment. Right before this passage, Hannah goes to the temple and prays to God for a child.

Gifts Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, are unquestionably devout. They fulfill their religious obligations without hesitation. By dedicating Samuel as a perpetual nazirite, Hannah singles her son out for a special purpose or mission. Nazirite is from the Hebrew word for consecrating oneself or setting oneself apart. Recognizing that her child is a gift from God, Hannah gives the child back to God by dedicating Samuel for service in the temple. Hannah couldn't have known how important her gift would be for Israel. Samuel devoted his long life to guiding his people, especially when they transitioned to being ruled by a king (www.oursundayreadings)

Setting—and Keeping—Family Goals in the New Year - Follow a few simple steps to achieve some very achievable goals this year. The Seven Steps

1. Invite each family member to take a week to think about and write down two particular goals they would like to implement. Explain that these goals should enhance the person's individual development, build up their relationship with Jesus, or improve family relationships. For example, a spouse might want to focus on the household budget, develop better family traditions, or find ways to bring more fun and intimacy into their marriage. Children's goals might target some of the areas where we have set goals with our children over the years: school performance, honesty, hard work, sports, friendships, shyness, skill development.

2. Set a couple of dates when you can compare your lists. Choose a place where you won't be interrupted, and allow enough time for discussion.

Spouses should meet first to set their marriage goals and discuss their thoughts about the children. Then, get together with the whole family. (You can also meet individually, if a situation is sensitive or requires more privacy.)

Give the children a chance to express their two goals for the year. You may be surprised. About 50 percent of the time, my children have targeted the very areas that Felicia and I felt they needed to address.

3. At your family planning session, go through the items on your individual lists. Take turns presenting your goals and explaining the reasons why each one appears on your list. Listen carefully and respectfully to every family member's ideas, explanations, and positions. Men's and women's goals can differ quite a bit. These differences need to be respected—even cherished.

Now, select two goals per child to implement in the next year. In this process, each family member should be given veto power and the freedom to exercise it. Plans will come to nothing unless there is agreement; parents and child must be able to commit to a goal, or it will not be achieved. But each child must have two goals to work on at the meeting's end. You can't veto everything!

4. Each goal needs an action plan—an outline of the measures to be taken for realizing it. What will you do? When? How often? Where? What will it cost? Who will do what? Think it through and get as specific as you can. The clearer you are, the better. After all, you may have to restate the plan over and over again in the coming year. This has certainly been true for me.

5. Once you've agreed on the whats and hows, it's time to draw up a master list. Put your goals down on paper, along with the action plan. Spell out each individual goal as clearly as possible, and make sure not to undertake too much.

6. Monitor your plan periodically. Felicia and I evaluate our goals together every month or two. As circumstances require, we modify them. Occasionally we have also scrapped plans that were not working out the way we had hoped.

7. Celebrate your successes. By the end of the year, I hope it will be possible for you to say, "We did it!" Whenever you achieve a goal, congratulate one another on a job well done. Before you know it, it will be 2018—time to set some new goals.

Now is the time to prepare that future success. This new year, why not resolve to follow this seven-step plan to a better marriage and family life? Ask the Lord for wisdom, and set some attainable goals for your life, marriage, and family. As Scripture tells us, we can use our minds to make good plans, trusting that the Lord is with us and directs our steps (Proverbs 16:9). (*Joe Difato is the founder and publisher of The Word Among Us magazine.*)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Bless the children

Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well. (Prepare the Word)

FIESTA DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE JESÚS, MARÍA Y JOSÉ

Bendecir a los niños

Las familias santas no son necesariamente perfectas. Pero son fieles y coherentes en sus valores y objetivos. Al igual que María y José y los padres bíblicos que los precedieron, las familias santas consagran a sus hijos temprano y con frecuencia al cuidado de Dios. Lo hacen bautizándolos y ocupándose de su preparación sacramental. Lo hacen rezando por y con sus pequeños. Les brindan una educación religiosa y comparten prácticas de compasión y caridad llenas de fe. Todos los niños de nuestra vida buscan en nosotros amor y aceptación, orientación y ejemplo cristiano. Enseñen bien a los niños.