

# 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.



HOLY FAMILY - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL, EAST TIMOR / WIKICOMMONS

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](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

## Wisdom 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

## 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

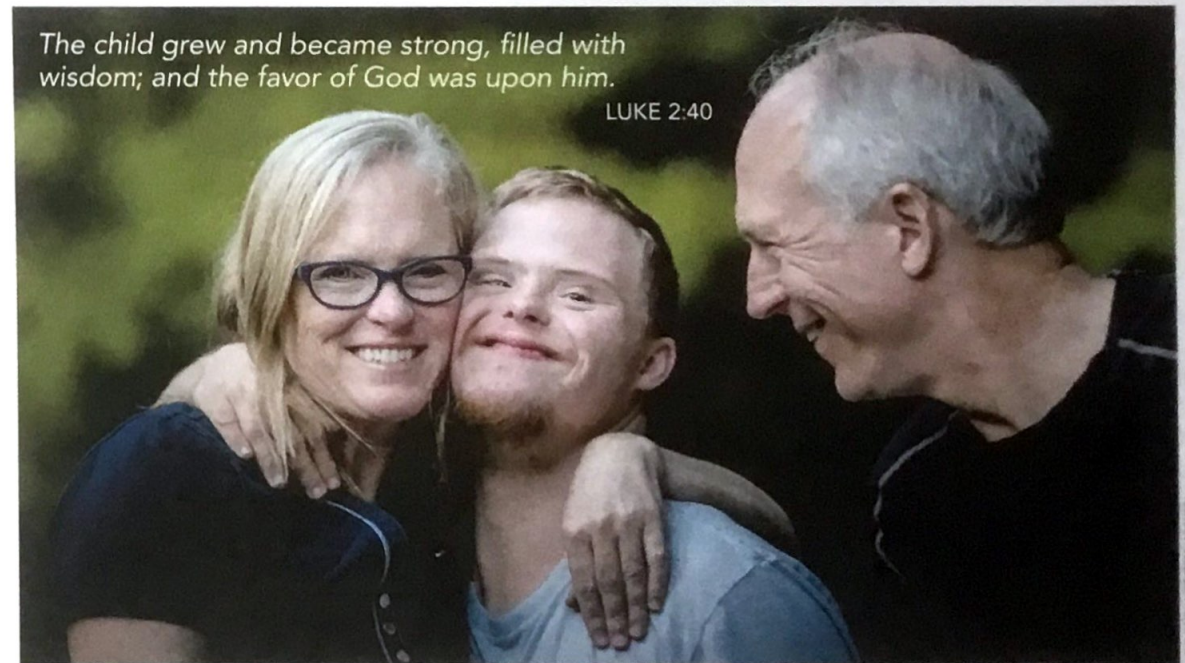
**Friday**  
JANUARY 1  
*Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God*  
Nm 6:22–27  
Gal 4:4–7  
Lk 2:16–21

**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

# 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; 21:1–5  
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 3:12–15). 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?



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Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Monday, Dec. 28</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>LaVera Strecker</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 29</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Guebelle's grandchildren</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec.31</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>For the Parishes' People</b>
<b>Friday, Jan. 1</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>
<b>Saturday, Jan. 2</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>For the Parishes' People</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan. 3</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Pastor's Intention</b>

December 26, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
December 27, 9:00 a.m.	Steve Sullivan
December 31, 6:00 p.m.	Volunteer
January 2, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
January 3, 9:00 a.m.	Karen Burden
January 9, 4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
January 10, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
January 16, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
January 17, 9:00 a.m.	K of C Member
January 23, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
January 24, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman

*Thank you so much for your ministry!*



**VOCATION VIEW**

The voice of God is first heard in the voice of a mother and father. (Sir 3:2) Make a commitment to make your home a domestic church where the Lord's call can be heard and nourished. (Col 3:16)

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT**

"Whatever you do," says St. Paul to the Colossians, "...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him." And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist "through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit..."

**A FEW WORDS FROM THE PASTOR**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

My friends, today is a day on which we celebrate the Holy Family. We humbly ask for the prayers of Mary and Joseph and sincerely proclaim Jesus as our Lord. And we look to this remarkable family to see what true "holiness" looks like --- to see a concrete example of people bound together in love, facing life's challenges not alone, but together.

Parents today seem to have an incredible number of decisions they have to make regarding the lives of their sons and daughters. And spouses themselves are expected to continually and sincerely work on their relationship, making sure that both partners feel loved and appreciated, are on the same page on important matters, and are relatively satisfied with the way things are going.

And so, we ask that they help us reflect these same God-qualities in our own unique families too. St. Paul provides us with a beautiful list from his Letter to the Colossians in today's second reading (Colossians 3: 12-21) one that each of us is invited to strive for. Let us . . .

**"Put on . . . heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, . . ."**

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, to your family, and to all of your love ones.*

*Fr. Peter Tran*

**COLLECTION** for December 20, 2020: Envelopes: \$900.00; Loose: \$226.00; Online Giving: \$393.47; Total \$1,519.47; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55. Income over/under (-470.08) *Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

**THANK YOU** Our church was decorated for Christmas on December 15 by many volunteers who share their time and talents. We would like to say “THANK YOU” all who helped decorate the church for Christmas this year. It looks beautiful. Thank you so much.

**PRAYER LINE REQUEST** If you need a prayer request for someone, please call Allison Bushek at 355-1696 or Nanette Rice at 355-7676.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

New Year’s Eve mass - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, December 31, 6:00 p.m in Lakin, 6:30 p.m. MT in Syracuse.

New Year’s Day Mass—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1, 8:00 a.m.—Lakin

### **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK (Luke 2: 22-40)**

**They fulfill the law** A Jewish woman who gave birth was legally impure because her loss of blood represented the loss of life. She had to keep away from sacred objects and places. Once Mary’s flow of blood stopped, she and Joseph made the required offering to God, which ritually ended the time of her impurity. Because they were poor, they offered two birds (Lev 12). The law also required the parents of a firstborn son to give an additional monetary offering as a reminder that God had delivered his people from slavery in Egypt (Ex 13). They owed their lives and continued existence to God.

**A sign of contradiction** Simeon, guided by the power of God’s Spirit, recognizes Jesus as the one he has yearned to see. In the now famous prayer we call the Nunc Dimittis, Simeon praises God for allowing him to see God’s instrument of salvation. Once Jesus begins his public ministry, people must decide to accept or reject him. First his fellow Jews will face this choice. After his resurrection, when his followers preach in his name, non-Jews will be confronted with the same choice. Jesus is thus a sign that will be contradicted (v.34): his presence causes people to react in conflicting ways.

**The fall and rise of many** Simeon, like Anna, is a devout Jew who’s delighted that God plans to save not only Jews but everyone else, too. Some Jews, however, don’t like the idea that God’s kingdom is open to everyone. These Jews seem to be among those destined to fall because they were once God’s chosen people but rejected the next stage of salvation (v.34).

**Good parents** Luke wrote his Gospel when Jews had begun to question whether the followers of Jesus were truly Jewish. Luke thus emphasizes that Jesus, his parents, and his followers remained faithful to their Jewish heritage. Jesus’ parents obeyed Jewish law – they went all the way to the Jerusalem temple from their distant northern town of Nazareth. Under their care Jesus grew up well, sharing in the favor of God that was granted to Mary (Lk 1:28). <https://oursundayreadings>

### **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

(Blessing for a Family or Household from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)

In good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, we belong to each other as we belong to you, God ever faithful. By morning and by night may your name be on our lips, a blessing to all our days: so may kindness and patience be ever among us, a hunger for justice, and songs of thankfulness in all we do. May the Lord Jesus, who lived with his holy family in Nazareth, dwell also with our family, keep us from all evil, and make all of us one in heart and mind. Amen

### **THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

**Biblical advice for parents and children:** Many people honor their mothers on Mother’s Day and their fathers on the Father’s Day by taking them to expensive restaurants for dinner or by sending them valuable gifts.

God has not commanded us to keep a day for our mothers or fathers but has rather given us a commandment to guide us in our relationship with our parents. It is the fourth commandment in the Catholic catechism or the fifth commandment in the Hebrew Bible, given in the book of Exodus: “*Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.*” (Ex 20:12).

St. Paul explains this commandment in his letter to the Ephesians: [1] *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* [2] *Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),* [3] *that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.* [4] *And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.* (Eph 6:1-4). “*Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord,*” Paul says in Col 3:20 and in his letter to the Romans, he reminds us, “*the authorities that exist have been established by God*” (Rom 13:1).

Thus, we obey our parents not because they are the wisest and the fairest and the strongest and the paragons of all virtues, but because they are the parents God has given us, and the command to obey is His.

**Both parents and children need to grant forgiveness and ask for forgiveness.** If you had parents who were abusive, parents who mistreated you or manipulated you, you probably have a lot of hurt today when we talk about parents. God knows about that hurt; God cares about that hurt and God understands why you hurt. As in all relationships, in the parent-child relationship too there needs to be love, repentance, and forgiveness on both sides. Both the parent and the child should be able to say, “I was wrong, I am sorry, please forgive me.” And, both the parent and the child should be able to say, “You are forgiven.” ([www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va))

**U.S. BISHOP CHAIRMEN FOR PRO-LIFE AND DOCTRINE ADDRESS  
ETHICAL CONCERNS ON THE NEW COVID –19 VACCINES  
(public affairs office)**

On December 14, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the new COVID-19 vaccines. In their statement, the bishops address the moral concerns raised by the fact that the three vaccines that appear to be ready for distribution in the United States all have some connection to cell lines that originated with tissue taken from abortions.

With regard to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, they concluded:

“In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines. “Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.”

With regard to the AstraZeneca vaccine, the bishops found it to be “more morally compromised” and consequently concluded that this vaccine “should be avoided” if there are alternatives available. “It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one’s health and the health of others,” the bishop chairmen stated. “In such a case ... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine.”

At the same time, the bishops also warned that Catholics “must be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research.”

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH  
THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS**

Fruitfulness is a sign that we’re doing something right. Plant a seed, water it, give it light, and it brings forth a shoot. Neglect it, and get nothing. We measure success in terms of fruitfulness: schooling completed, jobs held, relationships that endure, children raised, financial security, years lived, virtues practiced. God blessed Abram with wealth and years, but to that old man, the only true measure of success was a child. By what standard do you evaluate your life’s worth? What’s required for you to say in the end: “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace”? (Prepare the Word)

**FIESTA DE LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE JESÚS, MARÍA Y JOSÉ  
LA MEDIDA DEL EXITO**

La fecundidad es una señal de que estamos haciendo algo bien. Siembra una semilla, riégala, dale luz y producirá un brote. Descuidala y no obtendrás nada. Medimos el éxito en términos de fecundidad: escolaridad completada, trabajos mantenidos, relaciones que perduran, niños criados, seguridad financiera, años vividos, virtudes practicadas. Dios bendijo a Abraham con riqueza y años, pero para ese anciano, la única medida verdadera del éxito era un hijo. ¿Con qué criterio juzgas el valor de tu vida? ¿Qué es lo que se requiere para que digas al final: "Señor, ahora deja que tu siervo se vaya en paz"?