

Homily Summary – Feast of the Holy Family

Overview

Merry Christmas! Family is central to our celebration today as we reflect on the Feast of the Holy Family. Just like our own families, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph experienced joys and challenges. Their example shows us how God works through family life to shape us in love and holiness.

Main Message

The Holy Family faced trials—poverty, exile, and anxiety—yet they stayed faithful to God and to each other. Their love and trust in God call us to see family as a “school of love,” where we grow in patience, service, and virtue. The family is sacred, and holy, created by God .

Gospel (Luke 2:41-52): Mary and Joseph lose Jesus in the temple, a reminder that even holy families face difficulties. Their reunion teaches us that keeping Jesus at the center of family life is essential.

Practical Takeaways

- **Parents:** Love and prioritize your spouse, as your marriage sets the tone for your family. Teach your children to love God through prayer, Mass, and the sacraments.
- **Children:** Honor your parents by listening, showing gratitude, and spending time with them.
- **All family members:** Practice patience, forgiveness, and mercy. No family is perfect, but God’s grace can transform us.
- **Family prayer:** Commit to praying together, whether it’s grace before meals or the Rosary. Shared prayer strengthens family bonds.
- **Consecrate your family:** Dedicate your family to the Holy Family’s care through a special prayer, like the one provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Inspiration for Action

The Holy Family shows us that holiness is possible, even in the messiness of daily life. This week, reflect on small ways to make your family life more Christ-centered. Whether it’s a kind word, an act of service, or extra patience, let love guide your actions.

Rhyme Summary

In this season of Christmas, we gather with cheer,
Reflecting on the love that unites us so near.
The Holy Family faced trials, like you and like me,
Yet their faith and their love made them holy, you see.
Parents, love each other, your bond sets the tone,
Teach children to pray, and make God’s love known.
Children, honor your parents in all that you do,
Let patience and mercy guide each one of you.
No family’s too broken, no hurt is too deep,
For God’s love restores, and His promises, God keeps.
With Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, let us all pray,
And make every home a place where God’s love can stay.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>