

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

As we gather to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we are called to reflect on the profound significance of family in our lives and the example set by this holy family. In a world that often challenges the very essence of family, today's readings remind us of the values that should guide our relationships.

In the Gospel of Luke (2:41-52), we hear the story of the Holy Family's pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. This passage highlights not only the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph but also the importance of tradition and worship in family life. When they realized Jesus was missing, they searched for Him anxiously, demonstrating the deep love and concern they had for their child.

Just as Mary and Joseph sought Jesus, we are called to seek Him in our families, nurturing our faith and ensuring that the love of God is at the center of our homes.

In today's second reading from the Letter to the Colossians (3:12-21), St. Paul instructs us on how to live in harmony within our families. He encourages us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. He writes, "Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them." This mutual respect and love are essential for a healthy family dynamic.

This passage invites us to reflect on how we treat one another in our homes. Are we embodying these virtues of compassion and kindness? Are we creating an environment where every family member feels valued and loved?

The Holy Family teaches us to embrace our differences. Each member brought unique gifts and challenges. In our families, we may also face disagreements and conflicts. However, we must remember that, like the Holy Family, we can work through these challenges with love and faith.

Finally, let us reflect on the importance of prayer in the life of the Holy Family. They were grounded in faith, seeking God's guidance in all things. In the midst of their trials, they continually turned to God.

As we gather around our tables this Christmas season, let us make time for prayer as a family. Let us invite God into our hearts and homes, remembering the promise from Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

In conclusion, let us draw inspiration from the Holy Family. May we strive to create homes filled with love, faith, and forgiveness. As we celebrate this feast, let us pray for all families, especially those facing struggles, that they may find strength and solace in God's love.

May we honor and cherish our families, just as Mary, Joseph, and Jesus did. Amen!

Fr. Bula