

The Holy Family
(Sunday within the Octave
of Christmas)
27 December



About the Holy Family

Our knowledge of the Holy Family comes to us from the Gospel accounts. This feast, which was established in 1921, celebrates the unity and love so evident in the family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus.

What can we learn from the Holy Family?

The Church teaches us about the “Domestic Church”, the Church of a family living in a household. What a beautiful image of a family. Yes, Christ dwells in our families and homes as well. In our time and place when family and family values are challenged, we must look to the Holy Family for guidance on how to live our lives in our families even when our parents and/or siblings challenge us and our kind nature.

The Holy Family who experienced difficulties and social pressures of their time, are a model for Christian family life in our day and age.

When we are dismissed from Mass, we take Christ in our families so that we share his love with the people whom we live with.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon.

He was an upright and devout man;

he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit

that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord.

Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple

and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required,

he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;

because my eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared for all the nations to see,

a light to enlighten the pagans

and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there

wondering at the things that were being said about him,

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Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel,
destined to be a sign that is rejected –
and a sword will pierce your own soul too –
so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also,
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was well on in years.
Her days of girlhood over,
she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow.
She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple,
serving God night and day with fasting and prayer.
She came by just at that moment and began to praise God;
and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.
When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required,
they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
Meanwhile the child grew to maturity,
and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

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Hymn for Feast of the Holy Family

Joseph, you worked quietly,
never seeking fame or praise;
working with your wood and tools,
glorifying God all your days.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
model of the family.
An example to us all,
living lives of charity.

Mary, with faith and with trust,
to the Christ-Child you gave birth,
working with Joseph to care
for Him while he lived on earth.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
model of the family.
An example to us all,
living lives of charity.

Jesus, you were Son of God
and the son of Mary too.
Obedient to Joseph,
father to you as you grew.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
model of the family.
An example to us all,
living lives of charity.

In our families we must care
for each other and beyond;
forgiving wrongs done to us,
to Christ's love we will respond.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
model of the family.
An example to us all,
living lives of charity.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Tune: See amid the Winter's snow

Other Music Suggestion

[Angels we have heard on high](#)

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