

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.

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



HOLY FAMILY / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL, EAST TIMOR / WIKICOMMONS

A WORD 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



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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

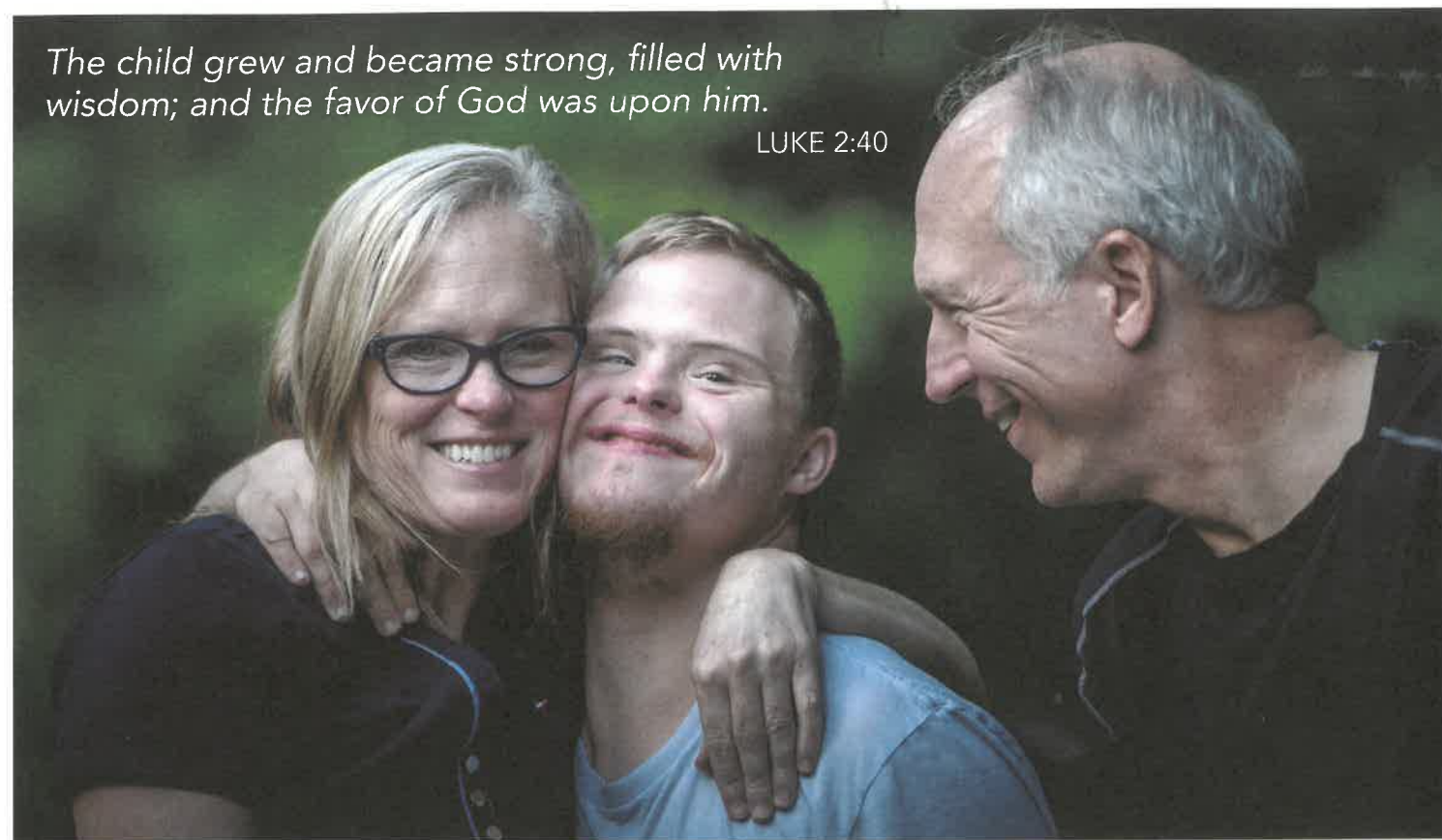
Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 27, 2020

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (B)
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
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



NATHAN ANDERSON / UNSPLASH

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 3:12–13). 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?

 **Liguori**
PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry



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 Deacon: Michael Sullivan
 Parish Secretary: Sheila Royal
 Office Assistant: Shirley Rivers
 DRE: Jean Rains
 Groundskeeper: Michael Beasley
 Housekeeper: Pam Little
 Music Director: Justin Lincecum

Prayer List: Vivian Halleck, Timothy D. Rivers, Bessie Mowad, Vicki Martin, Eddie Richard, Janice Murphy, Randy Richter, Jiles Bowling, Tom Hambleton, Ace Bowling, Bennett King, Wanda J Rivers, Norma Bergeron, Clifford Shuff, Roy & Pam Beasley, Ezra Thibodeaux, Bill & Mary Hurd, Donald Behan, Joanna Presseau, Lisa Brown, Bobby Bowen, Piper Rae Pate, Cameron Johnson, Jake & Mary Ann Rivers, Allen Nichols, James Edwards, Addie Procell, Richard DeKeyzer, Trisha Adams, Carla Kowarch, Sue Ferguson, John Wayne Behan, Timbo Sepulvado, Don Speaks & Marti Vienne

Please note: The names on the prayer list will go through a cycle. As the names are moved to the top, they will be removed as new names are added. Please contact the office to add or remove a name.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns night and day near the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. You may arrange to have the Sanctuary Candle at St. John's or St. Terence burn in memory of a loved one for a week of your choice by contacting the church office. The candle will be booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. Donations of any amount are accepted.

This Week in our Parish

Weekend Masses at St John:

Sat, 4:00 PM Anticipated Mass

Sun, 11:00 AM

Sunday Mass at St Terence: 8:00 AM

Weekday Masses at St. John:

Wed, 8:00 AM

Tues, 5PM

Thursday, December 24

4:00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass

Friday, December 25

12:00 AM Christmas Midnight Mass

8:00 AM Christmas Mass, St. Terence

11:00 AM Christmas Mass, St. John

Saturday, December 26

3:00-3:45 PM Reconciliation at St. John

3:30 PM Recitation of Rosary at St John

Sunday, December 27

9:00-9:30 AM Reconciliation at St Terence

7:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St Terence

10:30 AM Recitation of Rosary at St John

12:00-12:30 PM Reconciliation at St John

Anointing of the Sick /Ministry to the Sick

Please call the church office if someone is in a hospital, nursing home, shut-in, and would like to be visited or receive the sacraments.

Sacrament of Baptism

Call the office in advance to register for seminar.

Funerals

Arrangements may be made by calling the church office

Parish calendar online:

<http://www.stjohnmany.org/calendar>



The Sanctuary Candle

Week of December 27—January 1, 2020

St John + Sissy Rankin

St Terence *Special Intention*

Church Donations

Contributions may be placed in the basket in the back of the church, or mailed to the office. Online giving may be accessed by going to <http://www.stjohnmany.org/donations>

MASS INTENTIONS

Thursday December 24th

4:00PM 1. +Shirley, Ernest & Steven Rodrigues

2. +Sherman Salter

3. + Kathryn & Kenny D

McCormick

Midnight 1. +Bobbie & Billie Ezernack

2. +Henry & Elvie Parrie

3. +Fr. Ken Williams

4. +Charles Ezernack

5. +Elzado Rivers

Friday December 25th

8:00AM 1. The Parish Family

2. +Jeff Reeves & Terry Arnold

11:00AM 1. Bobbie & Billy Ezernack

2. +Renita Kay Parent

3. +Mike Rivers

4. +Ben Partida

5. +Elzado Rivers

Saturday December 26th

4:00PM 1. +Livye Lewis

2. +Murphy Auzenne

3. +Fr. Kenneth Williams

4. +Sidney Jacobs

5. +Dello Couvillion

Sunday December 27th

8:00AM 1. The Parish Family

2. +Christy Wriborg

3. +Sherman Salter

4. +Burnell & Mark Domingue

11:00AM 1. +Miriam Landry

2. + Steven Rodrigues

3. + Peter, Maria Hoa & Maria

Loan Nguyen

4. + Mike Rivers

5. + Ben Partida

Tuesday December 29th

8:00AM 1. + Sidney Jacobs

Wednesday December 30th

8:00AM 1. + Dello Couvillion

Thursday December 31st

4:00PM 1. +Living & Deceased Members of the Thomas & Claudia Ezernack Family

Friday January 1st

8:00AM 1. The Parish Family

11:00AM 1. Bobbie & Billy Ezernack

2. +Ben Partida

3. +Charles Ezernack

Mass Schedule

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

On *January 1st* each year, the church celebrates *Mary, Mother of God*, and her motherhood of Jesus Christ. The Mass schedule is:

December 31st, Vigil Mass, **4PM**

January 1st, St Terence, **8AM**

St John, **11AM**

Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2021 are located in the back of the church. If you would like to pick yours up from the office, please contact Sheila. If you are currently not receiving contribution envelopes and would like to, please contact us. If you would like a statement for income tax purposes, please use the church envelopes. There is no charge for these.

Schedule Changes

There will be no CCD nor Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this week.

Bulletin Announcement Deadline

The deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesdays at noon. You may email or call the church office with your submission.

Catholic Calendars Available

The 2021 Catholic Calendars are located in the back of the church. If you are able to, we are asking for a \$2.00 donation to help defray the printing cost.



Pope Francis Declares Year of St Joseph

In his latest apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis has declared this to be the **Year of Saint Joseph**. ".....Each of us can discover in Joseph, the man who goes unnoticed—a daily, discreet and hidden presence—an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. *St Joseph, pray for us!*"

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

As the year draws to a close, the Society of St Vincent de Paul wishes to express its sincere thanks to all who have so generously supported the works that we are called to do in service to those in need. Thank you so very much.

In Appreciation

Special thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Liturgies such wonderful moments in our parish life. We appreciate the beautiful music, those who decorated the inside and outside of the church, served at the various Masses, put up the indoor and outdoor Nativity Scene, etc. May God bless each of you for sharing your time and many gifts.

Christmas Ornaments

The Christmas ornaments for the children were graciously donated by *Mary Beth and Rick Tarver* in loving memory of Harold and Tillie Andries. We appreciate their generosity.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Danny Spohrer*, brother of Betty Morton. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

New Bible Study Class Begins in February



Our new Bible Study class is slated to begin in February.

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John is your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. If

you want to know what it means to really follow Christ, and if you would like to have a deeper relationship with Him, then we invite you to join us for *Follow Me*.

Participants in the class will receive a workbook and will meet monthly to view an engaging video presentation followed by group discussion and fellowship. The eight 30-minute videos, presented by Dr. Edward Sri, will guide you through the Gospel of John. Dr. Sri will explain how Christ's encounters with His disciples, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and others, are examples of how He lovingly and persistently calls each of us to a more intimate and life-changing relationship with Him.

Because of the pandemic, you will have the option to attend the studies in person or virtually via Zoom. There will be two sessions: 9AM and 7PM. The day of the week is yet to be determined. Those who choose to attend via Zoom will watch the video at their convenience. (There will be a training session.)

The cost to register for this Bible Study is \$19.95. This includes the workbook, online workbook and online access for one year to the eight 35-minute videos.

For more information, contact Pat Gandy or Clauriste Byles.