

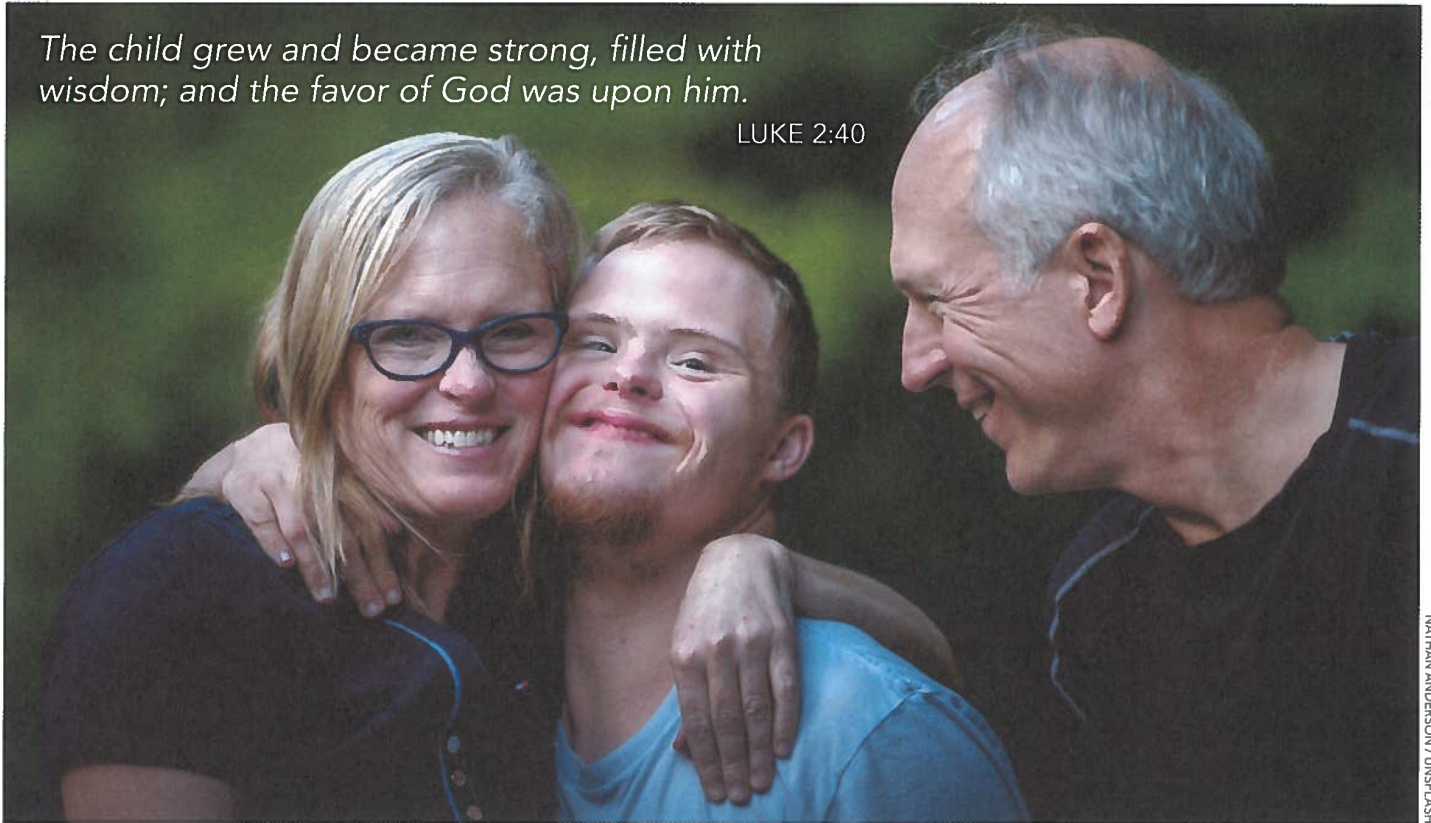
Our Parish COMMUNITY

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?



**St. Martin of Tours
Catholic Community
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

Mass Schedule

Monday – Thursday, 1205 at Fairfax Chapel

Saturday, 1700 at Belvoir Chapel

Sunday, 0930 at Belvoir Chapel

1100 at Fairfax Chapel

Pre-Registration is required for weekend Masses.

The link to register is:

**[https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?
i=583972&k=076941007C55](https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=583972&k=076941007C55)**

**The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed
and can be viewed from this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday – 1600-1645 at Belvoir Chapel
or by appointment. Contact Fr. Lindsay directly
to schedule.

For More Information

CH(MAJ) Michael P. Lindsay, Catholic Chaplain

571-266.2086

michael.p.lindsay.mil@mail.mil

Office located at: Religious Support Annex, Bldg 221,
10011 Middleton Rd, Ft Belvoir, near post office.

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Office located at: Religious Education Center, next to
Belvoir Chapel, 5950 12th Street, Fort Belvoir

Mrs. Louise Oliver, Catholic Pastoral Life Coordinator

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Office located at: Religious Support Annex, Bldg 221,
10011 Middleton Rd, Ft Belvoir, near post office.



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For more information, watch a video about this
new program by going to:

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Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

Website:

www.FortBelvoirCatholicCommunity.com

Facebook Page:

Fort Belvoir St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community



Feast of the Holy Innocents

Monday, 28 December 2020

1205 at Fairfax Chapel

The Feast of the Holy Innocents is an excellent time for parents to inaugurate the custom of blessing their children. Parents can simply sign a cross on the child's forehead with the right thumb dipped in holy water and say:

May God bless you, and may He be the Guardian of your heart and mind - the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation Mass

Friday, 1 January 2021

0900 at Belvoir Chapel

Join us. No registration is necessary.

Homily Notes

“Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also call in one body. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:12-15)

“Love. That’s what makes a holy family. Not the sentimental love of songs and movies but the strong, relentless, stubborn love of God. This divine love that the Spirit pours into our hearts (Romans 5:5). The selfless love that bears all things, hopes all thing, and forgives all things. The pure love of a God who became one of us and died to save us. No family has a perfect life. Every family faces hardships of one sort or another. But every family also has a heavenly Father who loves them and delights in teaching them how to love each other. So on this feast of the Holy Family, let’s pray for our families, and for every family on earth. May we all learn to put on Love.” (Colossians 3:14)! (The Word Among Us, pg. 48)

Our God takes delight in helping us to grow as Christian Families and sets the example of the Holy Family as something for us to strive towards. Nothing is impossible for God. By His grace and love all is possible. Blessings of the love an prayers of the Holy Families to e ach of you in this Christmas Season.

Fr. Mike

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

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