

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

27 December 2020

Put on love. (Colossians 3:14)

Everyone knows that family life is a combination of happiness and sadness, with a lot of the ordinary in between. But what about the Holy Family? Surely there was nothing but peace and happiness?

Not really. Life wasn't always a bed of roses for them. Remember Joseph's initial plan to divorce Mary to protect her from shame when her pregnancy was discovered (Matthew 1:19)? Or Mary having to give birth in a stable (Luke 2:1-7)? Or what about Mary and Joseph losing track of their son on the way home from Jerusalem (2:44)? They also had to deal with Herod's murderous rage, a secret flight to Egypt, resettlement in Nazareth, and Joseph's early death.

All of these occasions, and more besides, could have filled them with anxious, fearful thoughts. In similar circumstances, we certainly would have felt tempted to wish for an easier life.

But whatever Mary and Joseph and Jesus thought about their struggles, one thing is clear. They never gave up. In their faithfulness and trust—and even more so, in their commitment to love one another—they show us how to weather the storms of life.

Love. That's what makes a holy family. Not the sentimental love of songs and movies but the strong, relentless, stubborn love of God. The divine love that the Spirit pours into our hearts (Romans 5:5). The selfless love that bears all things, hopes all things, 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)!

"Father, pour out your merciful, healing love on every family today."

Called to Serve,

~Deacon Mark Race, Administrator





NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 2021 AT 9:30AM

Registration is required...

Please call the Rectory at 323.291.1136

or call 310.961.7994.

Safeguard the Children VIRTUS Sessions

The Office of Safeguard the Children is proud to sponsor a series of VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Zoom Sessions during January 2021. These sessions are for Clergy, staff, and essential volunteers. Those whose current VIRTUS® certificate has expired and need to take Keeping the Promise Alive or are new to their position have never taken the Protecting God's Children training. If you want to register for a session, please contact Felecia Johns at 323.291.1136 (office) or 323.600.5159 (cell) for more details.

Did You Know?

Talk to teens about posting photos

The pictures we share on Instagram and other social media can reveal much more information than just the picture we want our followers to see. If your teens are on social media, talk to them about the dangers of posting photos with potentially identifying information — posing in front of their schools or cars, tagging their location, or providing other clues that would give a predator easy access. Consider having a family screening contract, where parents approve photos before children can post. For more information, request a copy of the VIRTUS article “Technology Safety” at <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.

Stewardship Thought

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” - Colossians 3:13

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share give the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

Weekly Offering for December 20, 2020

\$5,155.00 Tithe and Offering

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Cynthia Fortier, Michael Frierson, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Vylfred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, and Alice Williams.