



Living Liturgy™



Opening Prayer

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing 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, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

So much tradition shapes the event in this gospel: Passover in Jerusalem, significance of being twelve years old, traveling in caravan, being in the temple, obedience to parents. A surprising interruption of tradition also shapes this event: "the boy Jesus" astounded the teachers "at his understanding and his answers." Each family—the Holy Family, our own families—must find a way to keep worthy traditions alive while at the same time remain open to something astoundingly new. Holiness consists in finding that way. We know whether to accept something new into our family tradition when that change in tradition deepens our holiness.

This feast reminds us to open our eyes and be "astonished" at the holiness and goodness of each other. Families grow in holiness when each person in the family—from parents to the smallest child and including anyone extended the hospitality of the family—is treated as a member of God's family and, therefore, holy. This is challenging when sometimes all we can see is each other's faults. It takes a great deal of dying to self to get beyond the normal, everyday annoyances that are part of family life and see others as holy and deserving of our honor, love, and respect. Mary and Joseph were not free from family struggles; after all, they lost Jesus on a trip! And when they found him they had to struggle to understand who he was and who he was meant to become. In doing so, they were able to help Jesus (and themselves) grow in wisdom, age, and grace. In this same love and care for each other we also grow in holiness as a family.

Closing Prayers

May we learn how to respect worthy traditions with greater enthusiasm and be open to astoundingly new ways God is leading us to holiness.

May we be guided by each other's holiness in choosing to grow in wisdom, grace, and love.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

- My most treasured family traditions are . . . They shape me in holiness in that . . .
- To deepen my family's holiness, something astoundingly new we might embrace is . . .

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the opening prayer (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect");
2. One person read aloud the gospel;
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer;
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection";
5. Pray the "Closing Prayers."

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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2015

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them,



"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Readings for the week:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Holy Family 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28 Ps 84:2,3,5-6,9-10 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 Luke 2:41-52 (or other readings)	Holy Innocents 1 John 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2,3,4,5, 7cd-8 Matt 21:18	1 John 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Luke 2:22-35	1 John 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Luke 2:36-40	1 John 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 John 1:1-18	Mary, Mother of God Num 6:22-27 Ps 67:2,3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21	1 John 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2:3ab, 3cd-4 John 1:19-28	Epiphany Isa 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7, 8, 10-11, 12-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matt 2:1-12

HOLY FAMILY / HUMBLE SHEPHERDS – 12/27/2015

SINCE 1926 **HOLY CROSS CHURCH** PNCC 89 Years of service

220 Browertown Road
Phone: 973-256-4888

Woodland Park, New Jersey 07424
201-247-4832 (cell)

The Reverend Father Joseph R. Cyman, Pastor
Deacon David Gaydos / Deacon William Gaydos

SUNDAY MASSES

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. / Christmas Eve 4pm, 10pm; Christmas Day 10am
WEEKDAY MASSES 8:30 am (check bulletin) / Thursday – 7:15 pm

"And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man". Luke 2:52

Introduction



My friends, today's readings give us 2,000-year-old guidelines for living together in family. We hear that families take work: They require compassion, kindness, patience and above all, love. Families come in every configuration, and they're often imperfect. But they provide the environment for us to become who we are called to be. People are stretched, often painfully, in the process. It's good to know that Jesus' family was really no different.

Today's Scriptures



Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 The responsibility of caring for one's parents
Psalm 128 Blessed are those who fear the Lord.
Col 3:12-21 A prescription for Christian family living
Luke 2:41-52 Jesus is found in the temple.

LECTORS SERVING TODAY

9:00 AM – Deacon Bill

11:00 AM – Claire Centrella



SHOPPING CERTIFICATES. WE RECEIVED \$1,000 from Shopping Certificates for a TOTAL of \$62,000! We thank Lucy Daum and Merry Sleece for organizing and running this project. The easiest way to support our Building Fund is by purchasing weekly shopping gift cards. The Building Fund is needed to finance any future repairs and maintenance of our facility. **We thank all those who participate and who run this wonderful project.** Gift cards are available for *STOP & SHOP, A&P, PATHMARK, FOODTOWN, SHOPRITE and FAIRWAY.* Please encourage other members of the parish and friends to join in this wonderful project. If you have any questions contact Lucy Daum (973) 694-9457, or Merry Sleece 973-731-3611. **WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

I remember you in my prayers each day. Please keep me and my family in your daily prayers. *Fr. Joseph*

HOLY FAMILY / HUMBLE SHEPHERDS – DECEMBER 27, 2015

"And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man". Luke 2:52



9:00 am Holy Mass for All Parishioners

10:00 am – Coffee Time Fellowship

11:00 am – Holy Mass for +Ignacio, Lucila Montalvo, Maria, Elena, Jesus Montalvo; Offered by Cabrejos Family (All Souls)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2015

Monday December 28, 2015 – Holy Innocents

8:30 am - Holy Mass

Tuesday December 29, 2015 – Octave of the Nativity

8:30 am - Holy Mass for peace in the world

Wednesday, December 30, 2015 – Octave of the Nativity

8:30 am - Holy Mass

Thursday December 31, 2015 – St. Sylvester, Bp.

7:15 pm - Holy Mass for the sick and home-bound (*Healing Mass*)

Friday January 1, 2016 – Circumcision of the Lord

8:30 am - Holy Mass for Benefactors of the Holy Cross Church



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 3, 2016

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9



9:00 am Holy Mass + Helen and Joseph Mihuk, Andrew Obsuth, deceased of Sadusky Family; Offered by Edward and Beverly Obsuth (All Souls)

10:00 am – Coffee Time Fellowship

10:10 am – School of Christian Living Classes

11:00 am Holy Mass + Marie and Neil Stefanelli, Mark Cofrano; Offered by Lynn Imperiale (All Souls)

After Mass – Preparation class for First Holy Communion



Sanctuary Candle Adoration Society is sponsoring sanctuary candles that are lit for a week in memory/honor of your special intentions for \$10. Please sign up on the list in the church vestibule, use special envelopes and make your check out to Adoration Society. You can send donation by mail. Thank you for your donations.

December 20 - *In memory of Melissa & August Centrella & Emanuele Triggiano* by Claire Centrella

December 24 – *In memory of Sophie Budjinsky and Edward Budjinsky* by Kimberly Junda

December 27 – *In memory of Melissa & August Centrella & Emanuele Triggiano* by Claire Centrella

P.S. Please use Christmas bulletin to read other information. More copies are available in the vestibule of the church.