

December 28, 2025

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



### LOVE

For generations, various cultures regarded family life merely as a utilitarian necessity. Sirach introduces honor and respect. For Jews and Christians alike, the value of family goes even further. The family is seen as the indispensable school where love is learned. Paul addresses the Colossians and offers a list of virtues that make for a solid and happy church. These values also make for a happy family at ease with itself and its members: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness. As a capstone, Paul urges love, which brings all of these domestic virtues to perfection.

Paul seems to be on a roll as he lauds the virtues of the church at Colossae. With such heartfelt virtues, it is no wonder Paul bursts into song. Who wouldn't? It's clear that the center of the church is love. It is clear that no matter how far from home the members travel, the heart remains and all the members are connected by the gravitational pull of mutual love, a love first learned in family life.

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### REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Could any period in history have been more difficult than the one in which we live when it comes to raising children, keeping marriages together, or maintaining ties among adult family members? Our whole culture often seems to be working against us. The Christmas season, especially, magnifies the differences between the values that we Catholic Christians hold and the values of the ordinary world. And not all the stresses are external. Many of our troubles arise from the differences among people within our families. Christmas can also exacerbate those internal tensions. Sometimes we just want to run away and hide from the dual struggle with the bad influences of the world and the strains of family life!

The feast of the Holy Family gives us much needed encouragement. The Gospel story shows Joseph and Mary fleeing to Egypt to keep Jesus safe, and then returning to Nazareth in Galilee to raise him in their Jewish culture. Jesus was protected by his parents from danger of death. Yet they did not keep him sequestered forever. As a child growing up, he lived out his call to holiness while dwelling in the midst of the Galilean Jewish community, with all its positive and negative influences. The readings from Sirach and Colossians illustrate how our own call to holiness can be lived out in our everyday lives. This feast reminds us that in Christ, the divine and the human, the holy and the ordinary have been forever linked. Whether it is in our nuclear family, our extended family, our parish family, the family of Christians, or the human family, today we celebrate the holiness that is to be found within our ordinary human families and communities.

—Virginia Stillwell

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### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We are in the season of the Incarnation, the mystery of God's love poured out in Christ's birth. The word derives from the Latin *carnis* meaning "flesh." Throughout history, some Christians have distrusted the "flesh," and stressed a hatred of this world and its pleasures. Perhaps they have not paid enough attention to how "embodied" the sacraments are. One third-century author put it plainly in an image that may alarm diet-conscious Americans, explaining that we wash the body so the soul can be cleansed, that we anoint the body so the soul can be strengthened, and that we eat the body and blood of Christ so that "the soul can fatten on God."

Catholics "get" that God is revealed in this world. The sacraments use the "stuff" of creation: water and oil; the senses of the body, touch and taste and smell. We use the things of this world rightly. After all, God's love poured out into human flesh means the world has eternal value. Why else would Jesus describe the kingdom to come as a teeming city or a marriage banquet? Catholics are realists, and nowhere is that more evident than when we gather for a sacrament.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**IN APPRECIATION** - to all who hosted, led, and attended the Posada Novena; all who decorated our churches so beautifully; to all our lectors, servers, ushers, choir, and all who participated in the Christmas Liturgies, our gratitude. -- God's blessings to all!



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD - January 1, 2026 - is a Holy Day of**



**obligation.** The Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 31st, at 7:00pm, in Spanish, at Immaculate Heart. On the Feast day, Thursday, January 1st, two Masses will be celebrated, both in English: 9:00am at Holy Family and 7:00pm at Immaculate Heart.

**Saturday, December 27th -**

**5:00PM-IHM** – +Daniel Grimaldo; +Gloria Castro, Delia Sparkman, Rudy Torres, Nellie, Dolores, Francisco, Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana, Tony y Patricia Gomez;  
For the health and well-being of Joe Nathan Torres

**Sunday, December 28th -**

**8:00AM – IHM** Por la Gente de Nolan County  
**11:00AM – IHM** +Daniel Solis  
For our seminarian, Martin Luna

**Tuesday, December 30th 9:00AM - HF**

+Estela Perez Gomez

**Wednesday, December 31st**

**9:00AM – HF** +Leona Deuschle,  
+Margaret & Mark Butler  
**7:00PM-IHM Vigil-** En acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Enrique Acevedo y Jesus Madrigal, Sr.; +Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa Gonzalez; Rafael y Concha Acevedo

**Thursday, January 1st, 2026**

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**  
**9:00AM HF** – For the People of Nolan County  
**7:00PM IHM -** +Estela Perez Gomez

**Friday, January 2nd 9:00AM HF**

Por nuestro seminarista Martin Luna

**Saturday, January 3rd -**

**5:00PM-IHM**– For Guadalupanas vivas y difuntas  
**7:00PM-St. Albert** – Por la gente de Nolan County

**Sunday, January 4th -**

**8:00AM – IHM** +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira  
**11:00AM – IHM** +Martina Herrera

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
- Thursday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** The Parish Office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, and will be closed Thursday, January 1, and Friday January 2, 2026.

**FIRST FRIDAY** – January 2nd, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8:00pm until 10:00 pm at Holy Family. Confession is available.

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS -RELIGION CLASSES ---**

- No Sunday Classes December 28th, & January 4th. Classes will resume Sunday, January 11th, 2026.
- No Wednesday Classes December 31st. Classes will resume Wednesday, January 7th, 2026.

**ULTREYA** in English will not meet until after the new year. Date to be determined.

**PARISH MOVIE GROUP** – will meet this Sunday, December 28th, @4:00pm at Holy Family Hall.

**2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** – are on the 2 back pews. Please be sure to look for your numbered box. Thank you for your continued support.

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COLLECTION DATA – 12/20-21
ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....\$
LOOSE PLATE.....
BUILDING FUND.....
TOTAL COLLECTION.....\$

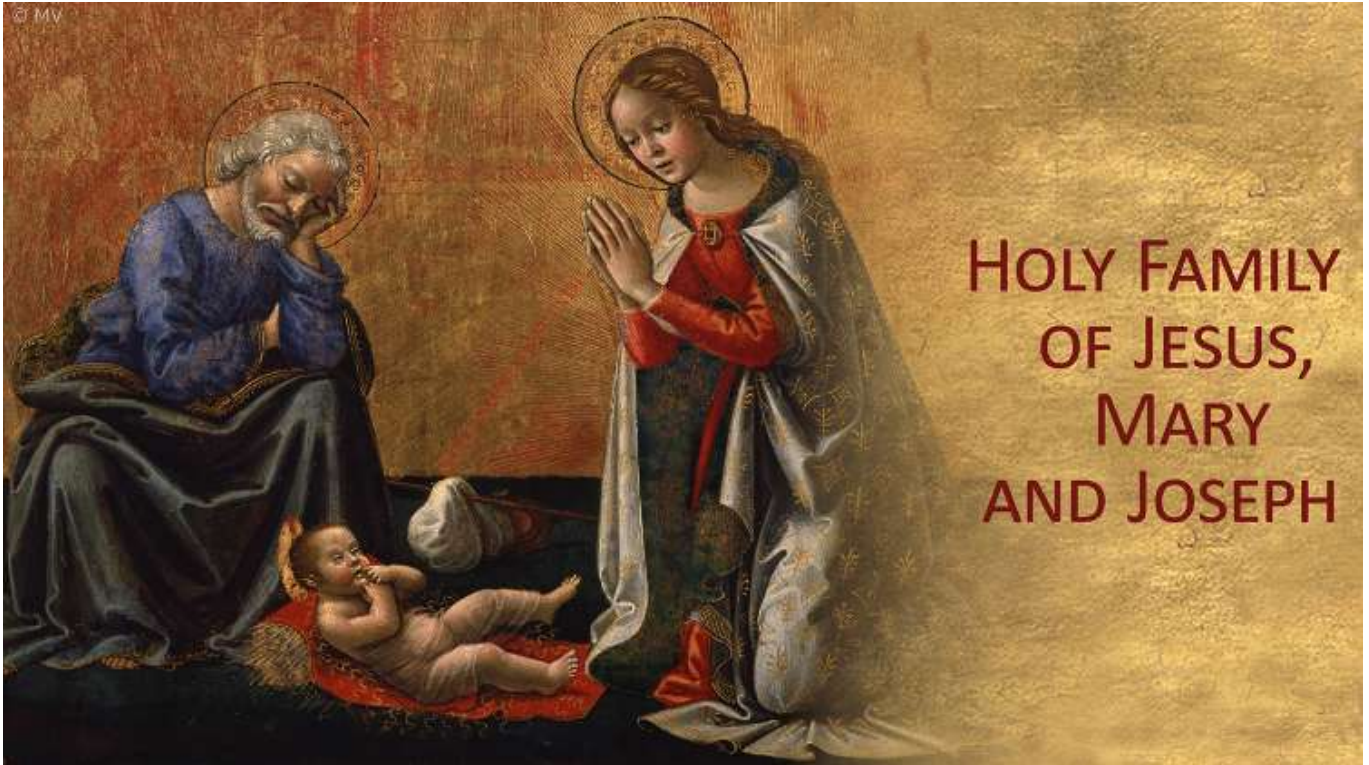
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**That's Dedication**

Anyone who has made a New Year's resolution knows you have to dedicate yourself to making it happen. We gather on the first day of the year to dedicate our year to the Mother of God and Queen of Peace, and to dedicate ourselves to seeking peace.

# Prayer to the Holy Family



Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.  
Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.  
Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence,  
rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find  
ready comfort and healing.  
Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's  
plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.

(Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 325)