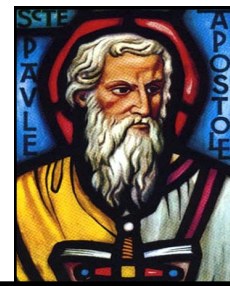


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THE HOLY FAMILY

Gospel Summary

In today's Gospel, Mary and Joseph—obedient Jewish parents—present Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem. There they meet Simeon, a holy man who blesses God for having seen with his own eyes Christ the Lord. Mary and Joseph also meet the prophetess, Anna, who worships in the Temple day and night. She too gives thanks to God, realizing that the child is Jesus, who will be the redemption of Jerusalem.

Reflection for Parents

Just as Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the Temple, most Catholic parents have presented their children for Baptism in their parish churches. But beyond the day of presentation, beyond the day of Baptism, it is in the everyday living out of our faith that our children come to know more deeply the love of God. Pray today to be an everyday example of God's love to your children. Pray that they, like Jesus, may grow "and become strong, filled with wisdom."

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

On this Feast of the Holy Family, share with your children your memories of the holiness of elderly members of your family and their ancestors. Recall stories you have heard about them, share photographs of them, and—if available—share the family Bible that contains your family tree. If such a family tree is not available, create one together. Write on the tree the names of family members, and draw pictures or symbols that represent them. Display the family tree in a prominent place, and add to it as needed. Be sure to include your own family members on the family tree!

Discussion Starters

1. Someone I think of as being holy and wise is . . . because . . .
2. One way our family is holy is . . .
3. One way our family can grow in holiness is . . .

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Visit Our Website!

You can register for Sacraments, become a member of our parish community, get information on upcoming events, and much more. Visit our website at stpaultheapostleto.archtoronto.org or simply scan the QR code below.



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Pastoral Team

Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
 Pastor
 Deacon Raymond Frendo
 Permanent Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily morning Mass:
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 9:15am (Maltese/English)
 Tuesday & Thursday
 9:15am (English)

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 5:30pm (English)
Sunday:
 9:00am (English)
 10:30am (Maltese/English)
 12:00pm (English)

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Secretary

Mrs. Rita Apalit
OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday
 9:00am to 4:30pm
 (Priest is always available by appointment)

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Please contact the priests. Baptisms are held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30am

Marriages: Contact the priest one year in advance of the wedding. A marriage preparation course is mandatory.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

First Friday: 8:40am to 9:10am
 Saturdays: 4:45pm to 5:15pm
 Anytime by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick:

Contact the priests. Parishioners are reminded that this is not a sacrament that should be left for the last possible minute. It is a Sacrament for the sick, not just for the dying.

December 31, 2023

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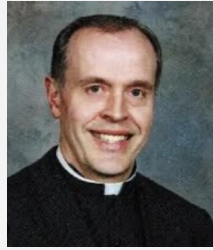


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From our Pastor's Desk...



On this First Sunday after Christmas, the Church invites all of us to reflect on the beauty of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are the perfect model of love, faith and obedience for all Christian families. By meditating on the Holy Family, we can learn how we are called to live in our own homes and grow in holiness.

St. John Paul II says that “the Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families.” This means that every family that follows the example of the Holy Family can become a holy family too. A holy family is not one that is free from problems or difficulties, but one that trusts in God’s providence and seeks to do His will in everything.

The Holy Family teaches us how to work towards holiness through our daily family life. St. Josemaria Escriva says that “in the home of the Holy Family in Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph sanctified their ordinary life, without doing anything spectacular or newsworthy. They led a life that was to all appearances, the same as that of their neighbours, a life that was important, not because of the material things they did but because of the love that they put into these things.”

Essentially, the Holy Family did ordinary things with extraordinary love. They too had to work, cook meals, clean the house, and wash their clothes and every other regular activity that we too perform. Yet, endowed with love for one another, these seemingly minute tasks became great sources of sanctification. For example, when Mary prepared a meal for her family, she did it with care and gratitude, offering it to God as a sacrifice of praise. When Joseph worked as a carpenter, he did it with diligence and honesty, honoring God with his labor. When Jesus obeyed his parents and helped them in their chores, he did it with humility and joy, pleasing God with his obedience.

We too should look to be stewards in our own homes by using our time and gifts to serve our family. One tangible thing we can avoid is complaining about performing house chores but rather strive to see them as an opportunity to love our family members, and by extension, love Christ. For example, when we wash the dishes, we can thank God for the food we have and pray for those who are hungry. When we tidy up our rooms, we can offer it for the souls in purgatory who are waiting for God’s mercy. When we help our siblings with their homework, we can share our knowledge and skills with generosity and kindness.

As we strive to be stewards in our parish communities, let us also follow the model of the Holy Family and be stewards in our own homes and, by extension, our parish communities as well. For example, when we attend Mass, we can participate actively and reverently, joining our prayers and sacrifices with those of the Holy Family. When we volunteer for a ministry, we can do it with enthusiasm and responsibility, serving God and His people with the spirit of the Holy Family. When we support our parish financially, we can do it with gratitude and generosity, giving back to God what He has given us through the Holy Family.

By meditating on the Holy Family, we can learn how to live in our own homes and grow in holiness. The Holy Family did ordinary things with extraordinary love, sanctifying their daily life. We too can do the same by being stewards in our own homes and using our time and gifts to serve our family with love and sacrifice. We can also follow the model of the Holy Family in our parish communities, participating, volunteering and supporting with the same love and sacrifice. In this way, we can become holy families that honor God and bless others.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU for your participation in the Christmas Liturgies and all those who were involved in particular ways. Your presence and contributions made the celebrations more joyful and meaningful. We are truly blessed to have so many parishioners who give of themselves so generously. You have shown the true spirit of Christmas by sharing your time, talents, and treasures with our community. Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. It was so touching to see so many people attending these celebrations. You have brought hope and peace to our hearts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who sent me Christmas cards, greetings, and gifts. It was truly appreciated. Your kindness and thoughtfulness have touched me deeply. It would be impossible for me to thank each person individually, but please know that I am grateful for each and every one of you. May God bless you and your families with his love and grace. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

CHANGE IN VIGIL MASS SCHEDULE

Please be advised that effective **Saturday, January 6th, 2024**, the vigil mass that is presently at **5:30 PM** will be at **4:30 PM**. This change will last for **six months**, after which we will evaluate its impact and feedback.



If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to contact us.

We appreciate your support and participation in our parish life. We look forward to seeing you at the new vigil mass time beginning in January 2024.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD, JANUARY 1ST IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION IN CANADA.

It is the oldest of all Marian Feasts. Mary, the Mother of God. A Church father in describing Mary stated, “Nothing is equal to Mary, nothing but God is greater than Mary....” We recall Mary’s role in salvation history. From the first moment of her conception –her life was centered in God. Through the Annunciation, Mary returns that love. In fear and trembling, Mary gives a total response of faith to the angel Gabriel- “Let it be done to me according to your Word.” She makes a total response of love and her YES” is a sign of her faithfulness.

The Church puts forth Mary to guide us on our journey of faith through this valley of tears. She will form us and bring us close to her Son is, in the coming year, we put ourselves under her protection. It will turn even our sorrows and sacrifices into joys and gladness beyond our imagining. There is surely no better way of starting the year than celebrating the day that Mary became the mother of God.

Tomorrow, a new calendar year will begin. I would like to pray this prayer for you: “May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.”

2024 SUNDAY MISSALS & CALENDARS

We still have the 2024 Sunday Missals available for \$5.00 per copy. Please contact the parish office at 416-767-7054 to obtain a copy.

We also have many 2024 Calendars still available. If you would like a copy, you may pick one up from the back of the church contact the parish office.

Mission Youth from Hamilton will be joining us to serve the homeless on January 27th. They will meet at the parish at 10am for an event that last until 8pm. All youth are welcome to join, and parents are welcome to volunteer as well. To register, please visit www.hamiltonmissionyouth.com

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor 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.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

"The Life of a Family is filled with beautiful moments... But if love is missing, joy is missing, nothing is fun. Jesus gives always gives us that love: he is its endless source."

- Pope Francis

