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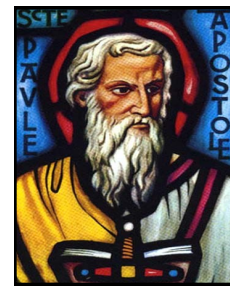
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 Fr. Roy Francis Farrell
 Pastor
 Deacon Raymond Frendo
 Permanent Deacon

MASS SCHEDULE
Daily morning Mass:
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 9:15am (Maltese/English)
 Tuesday & Thursday
 9:15am (English)
Weekend Masses:
Saturday: 4:30pm (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: 3:45pm to 4:15pm
 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 29, 2024

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Gospel Summary
 In today's Gospel, Mary and Joseph discover that Jesus is not with them in the caravan returning home from celebrating the Passover in Jerusalem. After searching for three days, they find him back in the Temple. Mary questions why Jesus stayed behind, but she does not fully understand Jesus' response—he had to be in his Father's house.

Reflection for Parents
 Parents who have lost track of a child, even for a few minutes, can understand the anxiety Mary and Joseph must have felt when they realized that Jesus was not with them. Like most children, Jesus seemed rather nonplussed about it all. While most parents strive to do their best at keeping track of their children and keeping their children safe from harm, there will be times of anxiety, confusion, and worry along the way. As a parent, pray daily for God's protection for your children and for all children of the world—especially those in harm's way.

Bringing the Good News Into Your Family
 The word *holy* means "connected to God." Today, take a family inventory of how you are staying connected to God. Decide as a family one way you can become a more holy family by deepening your connection to God in the coming year. Perhaps you will say grace together at every meal, whether at home or in a restaurant. Maybe you will increase your donations to the parish food pantry or clothes closet. Or maybe you will take the time to pray together each day before leaving for school or work.

Discussion Starters

1. A time when I was lost and frightened was .
2. I think our family is holy because . . .
3. A gift I give to our family is . . .

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 28
Holy Innocents
4:30pm
 • +Emanuel Grech

Sunday, December 29
Feast of the Holy Family
9:00am
 • +Veronica Micallef

10:30am
 • +John & Carmen Debono
 • +Carmel & Edmond Scicluna
 • +Marlene Abela
 • +Tony Axiak
 • +Natalino, Rosa, Anthony, Charlie & Albert Taliana
 • +Silvana Dewe & Grace Bugeja
 • +Emmanuela Micallef & Joseph Bugeja
 • +Emanuel Ellis
 • +Joseph & Matilda Zammit

12:00 noon
 • +Missa Pro Populo

Monday, December 30
 • +Zammit/Cutajar Families

Tuesday, December 31
5:00pm
 • +Mary Cassar

Wednesday, January 1
9:30am (Maltese), **11:00am** (English)
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 • +Shirley Toppazzini

Thursday, January 2
 • For living & deceased Parishioners

Friday, January 3
 • For living & deceased Parishioners

From the Pastor...

In this week's reflection, I want to focus on the beautiful feast of the Holy Family. I also want to thank you for all you do in the parish. You make it a place of prayer, worship, and community.

On this First Sunday after Christmas, the Church invites 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 to live in our own homes and grow in holiness.

St. John Paul II reminds us that "the Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families." This means that every family following the example of the Holy Family can become a holy family too. A holy family isn't one without 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, "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, to all appearances, was the same as that of their neighbors, but it was important not because of the material things they did, but because of the love they put into these things."

Essentially, the Holy Family did ordinary things with extraordinary love. They worked, cooked meals, cleaned the house, washed their clothes, and performed every other regular activity we do. 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 with chores, he did it with humility and joy, pleasing God with his obedience.

We too should look to be stewards in our homes by using our time and gifts to serve our family. Instead of complaining about performing house chores, we can strive to see them as opportunities to love our family members and, by extension, love Christ. For instance, 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 in our own homes. When we attend Mass, we can take part 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 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 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, taking part, volunteering, and supporting with the same love and sacrifice. In this way, we can become holy families that honour God and bless others.

A Special Thank You

A special thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Liturgies and to all those who were involved in particular ways. Your presence and contributions made the celebrations more joyful and meaningful. The generosity of so many parishioners is a true blessing to us. You have shown the genuine 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. I truly appreciated those gestures. 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 every one of you.

May God bless you and your families with His love and grace.

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.

VOCATION REFLECTION By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained, or consecrated person.

If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org

www.vocationstoronto.ca

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION The Holy Family went through many of the same experiences that all parents and children experience today. They too would have had moments of great joy and difficult trials as well as many moments of simple ordinary life. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the perfect example of how families should live in holiness and stewardship. Let us take some time today, on this Feast of the Holy Family, to seek ways to imitate them. The Gospel from Luke recounts how "every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover." Mary and Joseph took their faith very seriously and sought to pass on their beliefs to their child. They realized that while there are many important things that a child needs to grow, their relationship with God should be their first priority. They would have also taken Jesus to the synagogue and taught him how to pray and read the scriptures. We can take their example to heart by striving to make our faith the highest priority in our families as well. We can strive to be great parental stewards just like Mary and Joseph. For starters, we should make attending Sunday Mass the most important aspect of our week. We can supplement this by regularly going as a family for times of Confession and trying to pray together at home. One beautiful practice we can try to adopt is praying the Rosary together. If an entire rosary together is too difficult due to everyone's schedules, perhaps we can pray just one decade together. Let us commit to making our families beautiful and holy just like that blessed family from Nazareth.

The Gospel from Luke today recounts how "every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover." Mary and Joseph took their faith very seriously and sought to pass on their beliefs to their child. We can take their example to heart by striving to make our faith the highest priority in our families as well by teaching the importance of the Mass and family prayer.

Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.