



## BECOMING A HOLY FAMILY

In modern society, the definition of what makes up a family is being attacked. For centuries, however, the Church has given us Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the perfect example of a family. The feast of the Holy Family, which is celebrated on the first Sunday after Christmas, is a celebration of their family life. It reminds us of the importance of family life and helps us to recognize that we are ultimately a part of the family of God. Our family experiences here on earth are only a preparation for spending eternity with our Father in heaven. We are called to be like the Holy Family.

The readings for the day give us a glimpse of the deep and generous love between the members of the Holy Family. Colossians 3:12-17 describes how we should spiritually clothe ourselves and live in holiness. The Gospel shows us how Jesus respected His parents and was subject to their authority. Imagine! God Himself humbly bowed to the authority of His earthly parents! Mary, Joseph, and Jesus' examples are the perfect models for all of us who strive to achieve holiness in our own families.

All Christian parents should be familiar with the beautiful words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) 2204-2233 on the subject of the Christian family:

*"The Christian family ... can and should be called a domestic church.<sup>9</sup> It is a community of faith, hope, and charity; ... The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelizing and missionary task."*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2204-2205*

<sup>9</sup> FC 21; cf. LG 11.

for younger saints

1. Who did Jesus live with when He was growing up?
  - a. the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
  - b. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
  - c. Mary and Joseph
2. Name some ways your family is like the Holy Family.
3. Practice your memory verse.

# What Did You Learn About Becoming a Holy Family?

for younger saints

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- a. the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- b. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- c. Mary and Joseph

2. Name some ways your family is like the Holy Family.

*Answers will vary.*

3. Practice your memory verse. *"A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' " Matthew 3:3*

# What Did You Learn About Becoming a Holy Family?

for older saints

1. Jesus began His public ministry at what age?
  - a. at birth
  - b. 20 years old
  - c. 30 years old
  
2. Who are the members of the Holy Family?
  
3. Name some ways your family is like the Holy Family.
  
4. Recite your memory verse.

# What Did You Learn About Becoming a Holy Family?

for older saints

1. Jesus began His public ministry at what age?

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2. Who are the members of the Holy Family?

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus

3. Name some ways your family is like the Holy Family.

Answers will vary.

4. Recite your memory verse. *"A voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"* Matthew 3:3