

Third Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 28, 2025
Year of the Holy Spirit

“Today the liturgy takes us back to Nazareth, that we may catch a glimpse of the life of the Holy Family.” (Dom Benedict Baur, homily on the Feast of The Holy Family)

The Feast of The Holy Family reminds us of the importance of families. It is through family life, a child can grow to physical, emotional and spiritual maturity. Within this context, the Holy Family serves as a model for all families. One aspect which filled the life of the Holy Family, and should instruct our own, is religion.

In the Gospel of Saint Luke (Luke 2:41-52), we can read the passage often referred to as “The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple.” The passage, depending upon the various translations, generally begins with these words: *“Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival.”* Furthermore, although Sacred Scripture does not explicitly describe the day-to-day life of the Holy Family, we may correctly assume the Holy Family would attend other Temple festivities honoring God as well as synagogue services.

We may ask ourselves: “Why is this important?” It is important because it teaches us about the need for religion within the life of our family. When Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Colossians, counsels his listeners to show the virtues of “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another,” (Colossians 3:12-13) where does one learn these? It is through obedience to the Word of God, taught by His Church, that these virtues are fostered. As Saint Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary display loving obedience to God through worship in their religion, so God shows loving obedience to them in His Son and Word, Jesus.

My family, my spiritual family, the virtues necessary to prepare in us a spirit of loving devotion to God, must be nurtured through our participation within God’s Holy Church. We cannot give to our children a loving devotion of God, if we have not promoted this within our families. As much as you love your children, you cannot give what you do not possess. The renunciation of oneself for a greater good, what we call self-sacrifice, is found within these walls and lived within the lives of families. The more we seek to be like Jesus, the more we will become another Jesus. Our families are means for this. You are means for this. Invite the Holy Family into your home, into your family. Ask for their support, their guidance and their protection for your family. Remember always, a family that mirrors the Holy Family is one very much loved by God for He sees His Family present within them.