

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Year B



Are there any statues or pictures of the Holy Family in church? What can you learn from them?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

COLLECT

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards...



FIRST READING GENESIS 15:1-6; 21:1-3

God speaks to Abraham
in a vision and makes the
most amazing promise.
Abraham will have as
many descendants
as there are stars in
the sky. This would be
an incredible idea for
anyone, but for Abraham

it is especially amazing,
as he doesn't have even
one child. Yet God keeps
his promise to Abraham.
Abraham's wife gives birth
to a baby boy whom they
name Isaac. Abraham is
still remembered as the
"Father of many nations."

We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.

We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
God promises
Abraham he will have
many descendants.

The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 104

He, the Lord, is our God.
He remembers his covenant for ever.



SECOND READING HEBREWS 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Abraham had amazing
faith in God. He left his
home to go to a new
country because he
trusted in God's promise.
Despite being childless,
Abraham trusted God
when he was told that
he would have as many
descendants as the stars

in the sky. Abraham's
wife Sarah trusted in
God's promise that she
would have a baby,
even though she was
past the age when it
was possible for her to
conceive. We look to
Abraham and Sarah as
role models in faith.

LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
Abraham and Sarah's
faith in God is
remembered.



We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!



DO YOU KNOW?

On **Monday 28 December**
we celebrate the feast
of **The Holy Innocents,**
Martyrs. We remember
those killed by **Herod**
when he felt threatened
by the new baby king,
Jesus. We pray especially
for all the children who
are suffering and who
may die in conflict **today.**



THINK

Today we are thinking
about the **Holy Family:**
Joseph, Mary and Jesus.
Although he was not
Jesus' birth father,
Joseph made a home for
Jesus. We do not hear
about their daily life in
the Gospels, but it must
have been very special.
Our families may not be
famous, but they are
very special too.



GOSPEL LUKE 2:22-40

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

Having a new baby is a learning experience for all parents, but Mary and Joseph have such a lot to find out! Their trip to the Temple to dedicate their baby to God should have been straightforward. However, Mary and Joseph are met by the holy man Simeon who recognises that Jesus is

the Messiah, the saviour promised by God. He holds the baby Jesus in his arms, praises God and blesses the young parents. While Mary and Joseph are trying to understand what is happening, the holy woman Anna arrives. Then Anna also praises God for this baby who will save Israel.

STAND to LISTEN to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, on this feast of the Holy Family, please bless my family. Help us to appreciate each other, even when we are finding it hard to get on. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time this week when you didn't pull your weight at home and then think of a time when you helped someone in your family.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for becoming one of us. Help me to learn from your family how to love my own family better. Amen.



PRAY

Draw a timeline, starting with when you were born. Try and remember some of the times when you felt loved by your family. Mark these times with a heart and thank God for them all.



DO

Make a card, or do a good turn, to show your family just how much you love them.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

