



ST. LAWRENCE MARTYR CHURCH
2210 LAWRENCE AVE E. SCARBOROUGH , ONTARIO, M1P 2P9
<https://stlawrencemartyr.archtoronto.org>

Tel No. 416-759-9359

DECEMBER 26, 2021 – THE 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 GOSPEL 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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Consecrate your family to the Holy Family

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION



Building Families on Prayer. 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.

Summary. 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.





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Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK



SATURDAY DECEMBER 25TH – SABATO



- 8:30 A.M. — English Mass
- 10:00 A.M. — Italian Mass
- 11:30 A.M. — English Mass
- 1:00 P.M. — Latin Mass
- 5:00 P.M. — No Evening Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26TH – DOMENICA

- 8:30 A.M. — + Vincent Pereira
- 10:00 A.M. — Pietro e Elvira Fugaccia
 Pasquale e Maddalena Lamanna - Salvatore Porzio
 Mike e Vito Cuoppolo - Leonello Pecorari
 Vito e Francesca Barbieri - Lisa Garofalo
 Marino D'Attolico e defunti famiglia
- 11:30 A.M.— + Deceased members - Abreu family
- 1:00 P.M. — Pro Populo
- 5:00 P.M. — Emile Tumaliuan

MONDAY DECEMBER 27TH – LUNEDI

- 8:30 A.M. — Thanksgiving The Ramsbotham Family
- 11:00 A.M. — Michael de Souza & Family

TUESDAY DECEMBER 28TH – MARTEDI

- 8:30 A.M. — + Stella Pereira
- 11:00 A.M. — Marie de Souza

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29TH – MERCOLEDI

- 8:30 A.M. — Emile Tumaliuan
- 11:00 A.M. — Rodel Torres

THURSDAY DECEMBER 30TH – GIOVEDI

- 7:00 A.M. — + Francis Lobo
- 8:30 A.M. — Special Intention

FRIDAY DECEMBER 31ST – VENERDI

- 8:30 A.M. — + Ronald Hoven
- 11:00 A.M. — Latin Mass



- 5:00 P.M. — English Mass
- 11:30 P.M. — English Mass

SATURDAY JANUARY 1ST – SABATO

- 8:30 A.M. — English Mass
- 10:00 A.M. — Italian Mass
- 11:30 A.M. — English Mass
- 1:00 P.M. — Latin Mass
- 5:00 P.M. — No Evening Mass

Dear Padre I've been trying to teach my children about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Any advice?



It's easy to teach young children about the works of mercy if you keep it simple and call their attention to what they're doing.

When they set the table and pour drinks, tell them they're feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty. When they bring homework to a sick classmate, they're visiting the sick. If they go to a funeral, they're helping bury the dead. When they make up with their siblings after a fight, they bear wrongs patiently and forgive all injuries. Siblings who help each other with their homework are instructing the "ignorant." A child who soothes someone who's been hurt is comforting the sorrowful. Praying for anyone, living or dead, is a spiritual work of mercy. Listening when someone confides in them is counseling the doubtful. Talking a friend or sibling out of doing something wrong is admonishing the sinner.

As your children get older, volunteer as a family with organizations that build homes for low-income families and help the children of prisoners. Performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, whether for each other or with each other, will bring you closer as a family as well as closer to God.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO

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. Matthew McCarthy, Director of Vocation — Archdiocese of Toronto. Tel No. 416.968.0997
 Email vocations@archtoronto.org
 Website <https://www.vocationstoronto.ca>



FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Please remember in your prayers: those who are sick and for those who love and minister to them—John Miceli, Gianna Ramzi, Francisco William, Stephanie Solomon, Antonio Sorbera, Bill Mattews, Vanessa Melone, Rosemarie Sorbera, Amelia Barroso, Joey Bagnato, Alicia Alvares, Charlie Abreu, Domingo Catolos, Marylou Gaerlan, Eileen and Mary Nicol, Betty Byrne, Verna Quinn, Luca Fitz-Charles, Geraldine Senewiratne, Pat Mancuso.





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Dear parishioners of St. Lawrence the Martyr Church,

A Very Blessed Christmas to each one of you! I can hardly believe that I am writing my 11th annual Christmas letter. As we once again come upon "the most wonderful time of the year," I wanted to take this opportunity to share some words of encouragement with our church family.

Due to the pandemic, this past year has been a tremendous challenge for the country and world. While we as a church have seen challenges along the way as we have been dealing with the situation, God is faithful! We continue to trust and believe that God will bring us through this situation we have all encountered.

St. John in Chapter 3:16 gives us the message of Christmas. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This verse is often overlooked as being a "Christmas verse." We can easily see the loving, giving heart of the Father in that He gave His only begotten Son.

God the Father provides the model of giving, and it was carried on through the life of Christ while He lived here on this earth. Jesus said in St. John 14:9b, "...he that has seen me has seen the Father; and how can you say, "Show us the Father"? This spirit of giving originated with the Father and radiated through the Son. And in turn, Jesus commands us to do the same in St. John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

This love is not based on feelings or emotions; otherwise, Jesus would not have been able to "command" us to love. He talked about the kind of love He had when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "not my will, but Thine be done."

This is the kind of love that will visit a nursing home and hold the hand of one who is discouraged. This is the kind of love that will cry with another who cries and rejoice with another who rejoices. This is the kind of love that will look "beyond faults" and see the need.

At this beautiful time of the year, I encourage you to appreciate our giving God once again and minister to the needs of others.



While many focus on what might be the politically correct thing to say during this beautiful Christmas season, as Catholics, we focus upon the Christ of Christmas! We live in a politically divided and polarized world with vast differences separating people. Even issues that concern Christians can be viewed through a different lens or perspective. However, there is one issue that we as people of God must agree upon: Jesus Christ came into this world to "seek and save what was lost." The burden of His heart must become the burden of our hearts. Our desires should yield the hope He had, which included lives forever changed and redeemed with the Gospel message.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and yours a peaceful and joyful Christmas. Once again, we as a church family celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Keeping Christ in Christmas, *Father Roy Farrell*

