

Dear Padre,

Why does the Church celebrate the Holy Family? Jesus doesn't seem to be much of a family person. Scripture show him ignoring—even rejecting—Mary and Joseph.

As Jesus grows in age and wisdom, it becomes clear that he hasn't come to build up his own little family but to create a worldwide family of disciples. This family would claim God as the father of everyone in the family, with Jesus and all others as brothers and sisters. All who followed him would be as dear to Jesus as his mother or his foster father. As Jesus said: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you" (John 15:9).

The roles of Mary and Joseph in this new family of Jesus were not to be only earthbound parents but, more importantly, to be examples of how to follow God's purpose. Both Mary and Joseph accepted God's path for them, even though they didn't know where the path would take them.

In the new family of God, we are people who seek out and follow God's purpose in our lives. We are to say yes with Mary; we are to imitate Joseph in following God's direction. Jesus said this quite plainly: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). The will of God becomes the cornerstone of Jesus' new, universal family of humankind. Every Christian family, then, has a double task in raising their children: teaching and inspiring them to love and believe in Jesus and to always seek God's will.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



HOLY FAMILY / IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL, EAST TIMOR / WIKICOMMONS

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Instead of returning home with his family, he stayed in Jerusalem, in the Temple, causing great distress to Mary and Joseph who were unable to find him....Returning home, Jesus surely remained close to them, as a sign of his complete affection and obedience. Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family.

—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 27, 2015



Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 28
*Holy Innocents,
Martyrs*
1 Jn 1:5—2:2
Mt 2:13–18

Tuesday

DECEMBER 29
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:3–11
Lk 2:22–35

Wednesday

DECEMBER 30
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:12–17
Lk 2:36–40

Thursday

DECEMBER 31
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:18–21
Jn 1:1–18

Friday

JANUARY 1
*Solemnity of Mary,
Holy Mother of God*
Nm 6:22–27
Gal 4:4–7
Lk 2:16–21

Saturday

JANUARY 2
*Sts. Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors
of the Church*
1 Jn 2:22–28
Jn 1:19–28

Sunday

JANUARY 3
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1–6
Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6
Mt 2:1–12