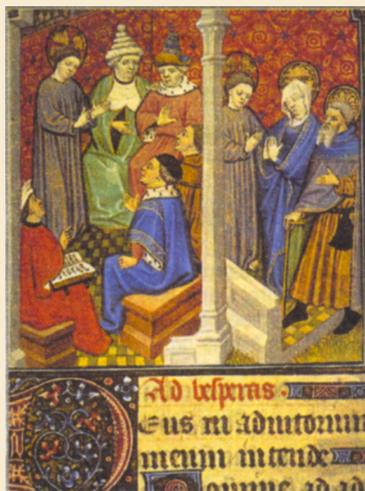


The Eucharist

26 December 2021 ♦ THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Devotion to the Holy Family became popular in the 17th century. This feast was instituted in 1921, during the papacy of Benedict XV (1914–1922), and was transferred to the first Sunday after Christmas in 1969. The liturgy speaks about the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a role model for human families, and about the entire human family united in heaven.



'Three days later they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors ...'

FIRST READING (1 Samuel 1:20-22.24-28)

Prophet Samuel was a child of destiny. He was the answer to his mother's prayer. No wonder his parents took him to the temple first! They make a sacrifice there, in fulfilment of the law, but also in thanksgiving for the gift of his life. Life is sacred. It comes from God. When we protect and safeguard life, we honour God.

SECOND READING (1 John 3:1-2.21-24)

As human beings, we are the children of God. As children, it is but right and proper that we honour and obey God. True obedience consists in recognising Jesus as the Saviour and in loving our fellow human beings as our brothers and sisters.

GOSPEL (Luke 2:41-52)

The theme of dwelling in the house of the Lord is to be found in today's first reading, in the psalm and in the Gospel. The Jerusalem Temple was the house of God, where God's presence was considered to remain constantly. Love for the house of the Lord is a quality of the pious Jewish person.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Lk 2:16)

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

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING (1 Sam 1:20-22.24-28)

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since', she said, 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 83:2-3.5-6.9-10)

R They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **R**
2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. **R**
3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. **R**

SECOND READING (1 Jn 3:1-2.21-24)

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed,

all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments

and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Cf. Acts 16:14)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Lk 2:41-52)

 The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

*At the words that follow, up to and including
and became man, all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), ...

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation,
humbly asking that,
through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God
and Saint Joseph,
you may establish our families firmly
in your grace and your peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer III

(Preface I of the Nativity of the Lord)

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh
a new light of your glory has shone upon the eyes
of our mind,

so that, as we recognise in him God made visible,
we may be caught up through him
in love of things invisible.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,

we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
by the same Spirit graciously make holy
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,
that they may become the Body and \times Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice,

and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished
by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us
an eternal offering to you,

so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,

with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
(with Saint **N.:** *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*)
and with all the Saints,
on whose constant intercession in your presence
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,
we pray, O Lord,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity
your pilgrim Church on earth,
with your servant **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop,
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,
whom you have summoned before you:
in your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory
through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...

Our Father, who art in heaven, ...

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated
host the following is sung or said:*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...

Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

(Bar 3:38)

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

Prayer after Communion

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May the God of infinite goodness,
who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness
from the world

and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy day,
drive far from you the darkness of vice
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue.

Amen.

May God, who willed that the great joy
of his Son's saving Birth
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,
fill your minds with the gladness he gives
and make you heralds of his Gospel.

Amen.

And may God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Thanks be to God.

Personal Prayer

Lord God, from you every family in heaven and on earth
takes its name. Father, you are Love and Life. Through
your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through
the Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity, grant that
every family on earth may become for each successive
generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and
actions of husbands and wives for the good of their
families and all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support
for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and
love. Amen.