

Getting Ready for Sunday!



Sunday, December 29, 2023.

**The feast of
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph.**

**We always celebrate this feast on the
first Sunday after Christmas day. The
Holy Family is seen as a model for all
families.**

**As Mary and Joseph found Jesus in their
home, we too find Him present in one
another.**

Luke 2:22-40



Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’



Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.



Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'



And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.



Mary and Joseph were like all parents: often amazed at what their child can do and be!

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary:

This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.



There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.



She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.



When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.



Bible Search

Read *Luke 2:22-40* in your family Bible-this is the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.



Activity

- Write about a time when you were lost or felt lost and how you were found.
- Or you may prefer to draw a picture to show the message which you got from today's Gospel!



Consider

How do you make your home a place where there is a lot of love?



Where does Jesus live in your house?

Who are the people who cared for you this Christmas?

Praying to Jesus



Pray for the grace to be open to be surprised by Jesus this week.

Ask Jesus to give you a sense of wonder.

