



Belonging to Two Families

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Adolescence can bring family life into an upheaval for both parents and adolescents alike. At its heart, adolescence is an urge for independence, a silent instinct to be part of the larger world. It is a calling sewn by God's Spirit into the very fabric of being human. At its best, family life can be the staging ground for that movement outward.

Hannah recognized this when she believed that her young son Samuel was chosen for a specific role in life. It moved her to bring Samuel to the temple to be raised there in growing service to the community. Ultimately Samuel became a charismatic leader of the Hebrew people who would anoint both Saul and David as king. That same calling seemed to take time

to unfold in the awareness of Joseph and Mary who wondered why Jesus stayed behind in the temple. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" asked Jesus of them (Luke 2:49). All of us are meant to live more than a life of satisfaction for ourselves or even the fulfillment of our parents' dreams.

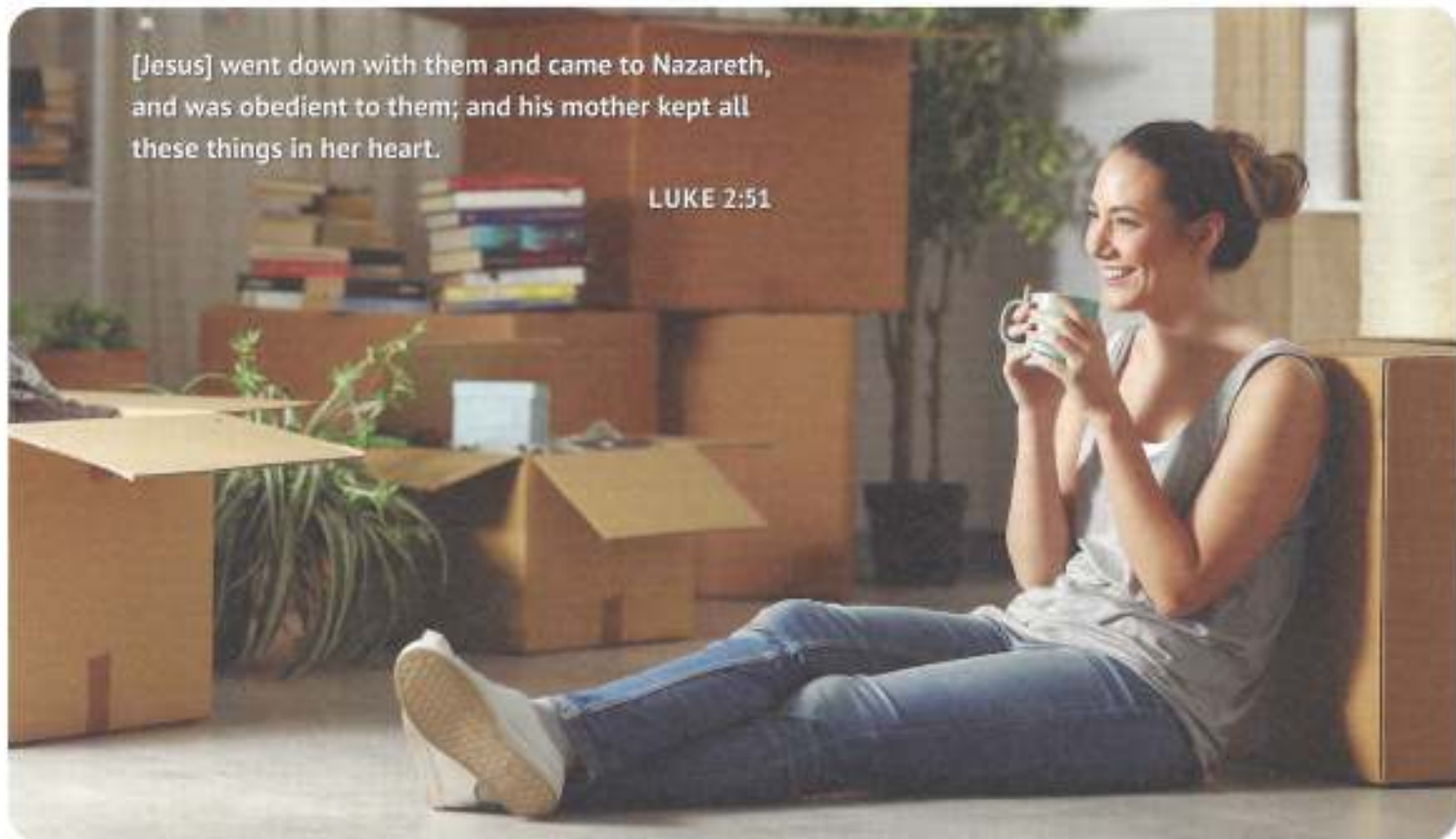
We may find ourselves asking a young person what they want to be when they grow up. A more valuable question might be what they think God wants them to be. While the Spirit of God does not usually ask us to be something contrary to our inclinations, the call of service to the needs of the human family is an added piece to the puzzle of what someone's life might look like. ●

Reflect

How has the call to serve God and God's people shown itself in your life?

[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

LUKE 2:51





Holy Trinity

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St. Thomas More

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Adoration Room at STM
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Website for the Three Churches
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and on Facebook at
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Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



CCD Classes

Sunday, December 29th - No Class

Sunday, January 5th - No Classes

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 30, 2024

Monday	12/30			+ No Mass
Tuesday	12/31	4:00 pm	STM (New Year's Eve)	+ John Balma
Wednesday	1/1	9:00 am	HT (New Year's Day)	+ For the Parishioners
Thursday	1/2	9:00 am	HT	+ No Mass
Friday	1/3	9:00 am	STM	+ For the Purgatory Souls

Mass Intentions for the weekend of January 4 - 5, 2024

Saturday	1/4	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Dorothy Orlandi
Sunday	1/5	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ For the Parishioners

Honoring The Holy Family

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small, and in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life. Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love.

But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones, St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue. *(Excerpted from catholic-daily-reflections.com)*

A Heartfelt Big Hand to all those who:

- * Gave to the toy drive
- * Decorated outside and inside of our churches to make them look beautiful
- * Volunteer their time, talent and treasure to support our fundraisers
- * Made church contributions for 2024

Please note: if you haven't already picked up your 2025 envelopes which are in back of the churches. Let the office know if you do not see yours. Also, those wanting a 2024 contribution letter please contact the church office. Thank You & God Bless!

A Brief History of Why January 1st is New Year's Day

The first time January 1st came to be considered as the beginning of the new year was back in 45 BC. Before that, the Roman calendar began in March and consisted of 355 days. It was Roman Emperor Julius Caesar who reformed the calendar after coming to power. He instituted January 1st as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. However, large parts of Europe did not accept it till well into the mid-16th century. It was only after Pope Gregory reformed the Julian calendar and standardized January 1st as the first day of a new year that it slowly became acceptable. The start of a new year is an excellent time to make positive changes, which is why many people write down their resolutions for the coming year.

(excerpted from hindustabtimes.com)

Latest Offering's

Dec 22nd Weekend

HT — \$1,040.00

SP — \$ 579.00

STM — \$1,412.00

New Year's Day

**Holy Days of Obligation
for Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God**

New Years Eve at STM 4PM

New Year Day at HT 9am

Confessions

Confessions will be on
Sat. Jan 4th
10:30 am—11:15 am at
St. Thomas More
in the hall

Dear Padre,

If Jesus was a Jew, why are we Catholic and not Jewish?

Jesus was a first-century Jew, as were his first disciples. They continued their Jewish practices after Jesus' resurrection, but they believed and proclaimed that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of Judaism. Such claims inevitably led to clashes with Jewish authorities, as when St. Stephen, the first martyr, was charged with blasphemy and stoned to death in Jerusalem in the year 36 (Acts 6–7).

Nevertheless, Jesus' followers initially saw themselves as reformers of Judaism—not founders of a new religion. The Acts of the Apostles traces the first thirty years of this community of believers, from Jesus' ascension in Jerusalem to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. It details the beginnings of their separation from Judaism, as when the Jewish disciples wanted to impose certain practices of Mosaic Law on the Gentile disciples—circumcision, for example (Acts 15:11). Acts and the epistles also chronicle the expansion outside of Jerusalem to the Mediterranean region, where, for example, in Antioch, the disciples of Jesus were called Christians for the first time (Acts 11:26). The first written reference to "Catholic Church" is from St. Ignatius of Antioch around the year 107. Catholic means "universal." "The Church is catholic: she proclaims the fullness of the faith.... She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 868). ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 30	December 31	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4	January 5
<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Octave of Christmas</i>	<i>Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	<i>Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</i>	<i>Christmas Weekday</i>	<i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i>	<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	1 Jn 2:18–21 Jn 1:1–18	Nm 6:22–27 Gal 4:4–7 Lk 2:16–21	1 Jn 2:22–28 Jn 1:19–28	1 Jn 2:29–3:6 Jn 1:29–34	1 Jn 3:7–10 Jn 1:35–42	Is 60:1–6 Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6 Mt 2:1–12

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Every day, families have to learn to listen and understand one another, to walk together, to face conflicts and difficulties.... And this too helps...talk within the family, talk at table, dialogue between parents and children, dialogue among siblings. It helps us experience our family roots that come from our grandparents. Dialogue with the grandparents!

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 26, 2021

