

## **Christmas 1 Year C (Feast of Holy Family)**

**Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52, Psalm 148**

**Theme: *The Holy Family***

***“He said to them, why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be on my Father’s house?”***

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear friends, today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, the Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph.

The family of Jesus Mary and Joseph were as ordinary as the other ordinary families. Today we hear some of the problems that the family had to undergo.

The first reading this morning tells us of another family. It tells the story of how while Samuel was ministering the house of Eli, his mother used to make him a little robe - which she took to him every year. In response to this gesture, Eli would bless them.

In the second reading, Paul in his letter to the Colossians called on them to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility and patience.

He asked them to be forgiving as the Lord himself forgives them all their actions must be motivated by the actions of Christ.

The Gospel is a story of how Jesus was found in the temple when he was left behind after a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Few young couples would have experienced the degree of hardship which confronted Mary and Joseph when they searched for shelter prior to Jesus’ birth, let alone the flight to Egypt to save their baby from the anger of the King Herod and his army. They knew how it felt to be refugees in a strange country without money. On their way from the Passover in Jerusalem, Jesus goes missing. The Gospel tells us that Joseph and Mary were anxious to find him. Jesus’ answer to their anxiety was ‘Did you not know that I must be busy with my father’s affairs?’

Every family has its own share of problems. It is in families that we experience our greatest delights and disappointments with people whom we know and trust. It is in the family that our characters are fashioned. It is the first school of social interaction. It is in our family that we learn to understand wider world because we learn to cope with members of our own family. In the family we are taught to give and take, to argue and to make up, how to work out frustrations, resolve tensions and what it means to lose graciously. It is in this environment that we first discover that others are there for us and we are there for them. Love is the basis of family. The first and most basic love is that between a husband and wife. Parents teach mostly by example and their love can be seen in the faces of their children.

Yes, there is no family without its share of problems. There are bound to disagreements. For Christians, this agreement must be settled without lasting damage. As Christians we must be

prepared to bear with one another, and be ready to forgive and let go when things don't go our own way. At times, there are erring members of the family. Whenever this happens, we must remember Paul's advice to the Galatians.

The advice to the families is equally extended to the family of God which is the church. Paul did not mince words in his letter to the Colossian Christians. The same is applicable to all of us here today.

As a family, we must be prepared to let go of past injuries, we must not allow our anger to last more than it is necessary.

May the family of Jesus Mary and Joseph be an inspiration to us all!

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.