



Liturgy Cycle A

## Feast of the Holy Famil

### **Introduction**

Today, is the feast of the Holy Family, shows how Jesus needed a family in order to grow to maturity. The Christian community is our wider family. It reminds us that we have a common Father, and that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We cannot reach maturity isolation from others. Let us reflect on our ties with this community.

### **First Reading (Ecclesiastes 3: 2-6. 12-14)**

This reading could be seen as a brief commentary on the commandment to honour one's parents. This entails not only obeying them when we are young, but looking after them when they are old.

### **Second Reading (Colossians 3: 12-21)**

This stresses the atmosphere of love that should reign in a Christian family. It places special emphasis on mutual forgiveness.

### **Gospel (Matthew 2: 13-15. 19-23)**

We see the love of Mary and Joseph for the Child Jesus. They willingly uproot themselves and go into exile in order to protect him from Herod.

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

Let us pray to our heavenly Father that a climate of love may reign in all our families.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the Christian Community: that it may set an example of unity, peace and love for a fragmented and troubled world. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the government of our country: that it may strengthen and support the family as the basic unit of our society. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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**For families scattered by war or politics, and or single parent families. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

**That we may not be content merely to receive, but that we may be prepared to give and to share in our families and community at large. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear us in your love.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**If children live with criticism  
They learn to condemn.**

**If they live with hostility  
they learn to fight.**

**If they live with ridicule  
they learn to be shy.**

**If they live with shame  
they learn to feel guilty.**

**If they live with tolerance  
they learn to be patient.**

**If they live with encouragement  
they learn to have confidence.**

**If they live with praise  
they learn to appreciate.**

**If they live with fairness  
they learn what justice is.**

**If they live with security  
they learn what faith is.**

**If they live with approval  
they learn to like themselves.**

**If they live with acceptance and friendship  
they learn to find love and God in the world.**