



Liturgy Cycle C

Feast Of The Holy Family

Introduction

As we assemble to celebrate the Eucharist on the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth, let us remember that we are not a bunch of individuals without any close ties. Together we form the family of the People of God. Let us pause to reflect on our unity and ask God to remove the things that divide us.

Lord Jesus, you came to unite us to one another and to the Father.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds caused among us by sin and division.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you continue to intercede for us at the right hand of the Father.
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (1 Samuel 1 -.20-22, 24-28)

This deals with the birth of Samuel and his consecration to God. Every child should be seen as a gift from God.

Second Reading (1 John 3:1-2, 21-24)

We are God's own children and he has a wonderful destiny in store for us. We should, therefore, respond by living a life that befits a child of God.

Gospel (Luke 2:41-52)

This relates the episode in which the twelve-year-old Jesus got lost in Jerusalem. It shows how, even in the best of families, hurtful misunderstandings can occur.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us ask the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name, to send the Spirit of his Son into our hearts and our homes.

R. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Christian parents: that the Lord may give them wisdom to guide their children, and integrity so as to be an example to them. Let us pray.

R. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.



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For world leaders: that they may cooperate with one another for the good of the entire human family. Let us pray.

R. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those families that have been orphaned or widowed or which are experiencing problems of any kind, that the Lord may comfort them. Let us pray.

R. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: that like the child Jesus we may grow in wisdom and in favour with God and others. Let us pray.

R. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray:

O God, Father of every family, against whom no door can be shut, convert our hearts and our homes into fit dwelling places for Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Communion Reflection

A Prayer of Parents

**Grant us children, O Lord,
who will be strong enough to know when they are weak;
who will be unbending in honest defeat,
yet humble and gentle in victory.**

**Grant us children,
whose wishes will not take the place of their deeds;
children who will know you and know themselves.**

**Lead them, we pray you,
not in the path of ease and comfort,
but rather in the path of difficulties and challenges.**

**Grant us children,
whose hearts will be clear,
whose goals will be high;
children who will master themselves
before seeking to master others.**

**And after all these things,
add, we pray, a sense of humour,
so that they can be serious,
yet never take themselves too seriously.
Give them the humility and simplicity of true greatness.
Then we, their parents, will dare whisper,
we have not lived in vain.**

(Adapted from a prayer by General Mac Arthur)