

Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the human family unit, as well as the ultimate family unit: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The feast, not a solemnity, is usually celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. If Christmas is a Sunday, then the feast is celebrated on December 30th.

The Holy Family is the name given to the family unit of Jesus: The Divine Son of God Jesus, his mother the Virgin Mary, and his foster-father Joseph. We know very little about the life of the Holy Family through the canonical Gospels. They speak of the early years of the Holy Family, including the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the temple. While the exact details of the day-to-day life of the Holy Family may be unknown, we can still learn a lot from the stories we do have.

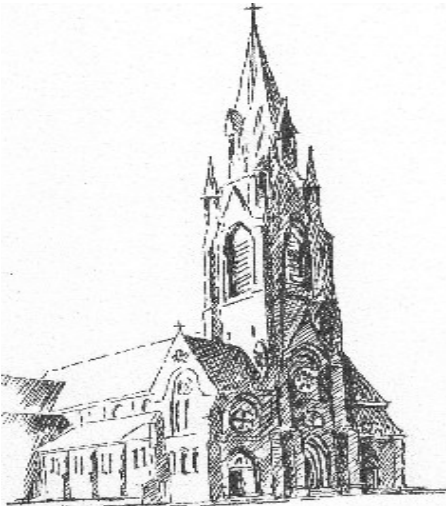
The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families too. The main purpose of the Feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families, and for domestic life in general. Our family life becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the “domestic church” or the “church in miniature”. St. John Chrysostom urged all Christians to make each home a “family church”, and in doing so, we sanctify the family unit. Just how does one live out the Church in the family? The best way is by making Christ the center of family and individual life.

The Holy Family feast is a good time to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take this feast to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary and Joseph do? Finally, we can use this feast to ask ourselves what are we doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.



St. Mary's Church

Rev. Fernando Couto (Pastor)
Rev. Benny Joseph (Associate Pastor)



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OFFICE HOURS
Mon.– Fri. 8:30—12:00 and 1:00—4:00

Sunday Masses
8:30 am Portuguese
10:00 am Portuguese
11:30 am English
1:00 pm English

Weekday Masses
Monday—Friday 9:00 am Portuguese
6:00 pm English
Saturday 5:00 pm English

Parish Council

Parish Finance Council

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
First Friday of Every Month at 5:00 p.m.

English Choir
Susan Taylor 416-531-0503

Portuguese Choir
Ana da Silva 905-891-5444

Santo Cristo
Artur Rocha 647-624-7113

Santo Cristo Band (Hall) 416-703-2231
Paul Valerio (President) 647-998-5916

Santo Cristo Association
Please contact the parish 416-703-2326

Espirito Santo
Kevin & Christina Cordeiro 647-218-1601

Saint Vincent De Paul 416-247-8868

Volunteer Co-ordinator
Delia Medeiros (contact the parish)

Baptism—Sundays
Baptisms will be booked by appointment only

Marriages
Please contact the priest *12 months* in advance

Confessions
Every day *before* Mass, except on Sunday

School
St. Mary Elementary 416-393-5205
Bishop Macdonell 416-393-5462

New Year's Day

On Wednesday, New Year's Day, we will have Masses at 10:00 a.m. Portuguese, 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. English.

In Appreciation

A sincere thank you to all that throughout the year contributed with flowers to decorate our church, and also contributed to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. To our church groups and organizations, thank you, may God bless you all.

Year of Jubilee of Hope

This weekend the church concludes the celebrations of the Jubilee Year of Hope, our church was one of the pilgrim churches. Many groups came in pilgrimage to St. Mary's to pray in silence, do the Stations of the Cross and receive communion. May the Lord bless you all.



Holy Family

December 28, 2025

First Reading (Ecclesius 3:2-6.12-14) This reading is a brief commentary on the commandment: Honour your father and your mother.

Psalm: *Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord.*

Second Reading (Col 3:12-21) This describes the atmosphere which should reign in a Christian community and in a Christian household.

Gospel (Mt 2:13-15.19-23) Matthew casts the Holy Family as displaced persons and homeless refugees. Matthew sees Jesus as reliving the history of his people. The Gospel story is coloured by the story of Moses in Egypt. Just as Moses had to be rescued from Pharaoh, Jesus had to be rescued from Herod. The story also contains echoes of the Exodus. Even though the evangelist's intentions are theological, he does show Jesus, Mary and Joseph as homeless refugees.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies.
With th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born, in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,
Hail, th'incarnate Deity.
Pleased as one with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

What Child is This

What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping.

**This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.**

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.

Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly

Sing of Mary meek and lowly,
Virgin-mother pure and mild,
Sing of God's own Son most holy,
Who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother,
God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother,
Takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,
In the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary
Love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her,
Though he went forth from her side,
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
Till on Calvary he died.

Glory be to God the Father;
Glory be to God the Son;
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary,
From all saints the song ascends,
And the Church the strain reechoes
Unto earth's remotest ends.

Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord has come:
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world the Saviour reigns:
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Mass Intentions for this Week

Saturday, December 27th

5:00 pm. Odilia & Michael Correia—Manuel & António Faria—Gary Realejo—Clementina & Manuel Alves, parents & in-laws—Maruja Lopez Alvarez

Sunday, December 28th

8:30 am. Nelissa da Mota

10:00 am. Community—Santo Cristo Association—Graciana Lucas Camilo dos Reis

11:30 am. Ana Carvalho—For all those that work to help others

1:00 pm. José Medeiros

Monday, December 29th

9:00 am. Intenção de Mario João Gomes, family intentions

6:00 pm. Almas do purgatório

Tuesday, December 30th

9:00 am. Honour and praise to St. Joseph, for all that suffer

6:00 pm. Magdalena Lamila

Wednesday, December 31st

5:00 pm. Adoration & Te Deum

6:00 pm. Mass

Thursday, January 1st

10:00 am. Portuguese

11:30 am. English

1:00 am. English

Friday, January 2nd

9:00 am.

6:00 pm. Victoria Aggabao

Saturday, January 3rd

5:00 pm.

