

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION: THE FAMILY

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph • Year A • December 28, 2025

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
you are the Holy Family.

We honor you today.

Help our families
grow in holiness
through acts of kindness
and words of love.

Amen.



Sunday Word

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



1. Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In many Catholic parishes, families will be given a special blessing on this day.
2. Today's Second Reading (Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17) lists many virtues that help family members live in love and peace with one another.
3. Jesus honored Mary and Joseph, his earthly mother and father, by obeying them.

Key Teachings



The Family and the Trinity

The members of a Christian family become an image of the Holy Trinity as they reflect God the Father's work of creation, mirror the prayer and sacrifice of Christ the Son, and answer the Holy Spirit's promptings to reach out to the poor and needy.

The Domestic Church

Daily prayer, reading God's Word together, participating in the worship and in the life of the parish community, and sharing in acts of Christian witness and service strengthen the family, the domestic Church.

Faith Words



domestic Church

The Christian family is called the domestic Church, or the Church of the home.

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Holy Family

The Holy Family is the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

In the Words of Pope Francis

In a letter to families dated February 2, 2014, Pope Francis stated that it is Jesus who brings together the generations and Jesus who is the family's source of love and joy. He encouraged family members to reflect on the beautiful moments shared together in meals, rest, leisure, housework, prayer, trips, and mutual support.

With My Family



We Listen

We hear a story about Jesus' childhood. The story is full of drama—just like family life today! Jesus' family is at a festival. They are traveling out of town. Mary and Joseph lose track of Jesus. Relatives and teachers are involved. Parents are worried sick! What else happens? How is your family like Jesus' family? What can you learn about Jesus from this story?

We Believe

The Christian family is sign of God's love. The Christian family is also the place where children first learn to know God. The family is the first school of faith.

We Live As Disciples

Read the words of Pope Francis on the participant handout and do as he suggests. Ask each member of your family to recall a happy time when your family was together for a meal or a trip. What was special about this time? Or discuss one of the other family times that Pope Francis names.

We Pray

At the end of a family meal, pray together the prayer that honors the Trinity, the "Glory Be": *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*