

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28 † 1 John 3:1–2, 21–24 † Luke 2:41–52

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Today's Gospel might not be what one would expect when celebrating The "Holy" Family. Parts of this story sound like what happens in families we know. A child deliberately stays back in the city; the parents frantically search for three days looking for this lost child, and, when confronted to why their son stayed behind, his reply seems to indicate that the parents should have known better. This certainly doesn't sound like the picture of the Holy Family most of us grew up with.

This Gospel highlights the awesome ministry of parenthood and the importance of the Domestic Church. Mary and Joseph, in this slice of normal family life, exhibit for us two of the key virtues that parents and those who live in community need: patience and forgiveness. Patience is needed to deal with the differences in personality and preference. Forgiveness is the glue of family and community life to practice reconciliation for real or imagined hurts.

This Gospel calls and challenges those of us who are not parents to be as supportive as possible to those women and men who have accepted this vocation. This feast of the Holy Family reminds all of us to pray and be grateful for our own parents and for those parents who are now a part of our lives today.

The Domestic Church Rocks!