



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 28, 2025

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3:12-21 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Prop: Christmas card with Holy Family

You may have received a Christmas card, a Facebook post or some communication with the Holy Family's picture. The noble father in Joseph, the perfect mother in Mary and the divine child in Jesus.

Just coming off Christmas present and Christmas' in the past, I don't sense a lot of families that we would say fall into that category of "holy." Or would we? I love my Mom and Dad and my seven siblings, but I didn't hear any one call us a holy family. Maybe because we often compare our families to the holy family; Joseph, Mary and Jesus, and we fall short a bit.

Yet we are holy – we were made in God's image and called to share his love in this world, as imperfect as we are.

I think sometimes we make holy family a noun, but we all know families are always developing. Dynamics changes, we get older and hopefully wiser. Holy family should be a verb. We are always in process.

Mark Twain, the late great writer and humorist, showed this by comically saying, "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

I think many of us who are older would concur with Twain's wisdom.

A good way to look at our family – past and present – is to see ourselves like the Eucharist that I will hold in a moment after the bread is brought to the altar.

I will take the bread eventually and that bread will be blessed, broken, and shared. Isn't that what we go through as human beings. Eucharist is not a noun, but a verb. Eucharist is a divine energy in our lives. Jesus is always present.

We are blessed, broken and shared.

We are blessed by the Lord in baptism and in many ways by the gift of life we have. But in that life, we will be broken. We will be broken by our life, by our sorrows, by our struggles, just by being human. No matter what our age, we have the same path.

But we are also broken, in a sense we share our time, our talents and our financial resources to help our family and our community. What we did as a parish in charity this Christmas season was over the top. I thank you for the positive impact you made on the community.

We are blessed, broken and shared. We continue to grow as a holy family; individually and as a group.

We are not perfect, because we have a sinful nature that does appear at times. It hurts us and it can hurt our families.

Nonetheless, Joseph, Mary and Jesus are great role models for us. They were willing to be there for us. To bless us with their example and prayer, even to this day.

May God bless our families and may our family members who are part of the communion of saints continue to guide us in the path of holy moments.

Prayer in Bulletin