

Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human person

The PELICAN
PROJECT

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THE HOLY FAMILY

“The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him...(Luke 2:33)

A fitting plan!

Today’s **Feast of the Holy Family** is a lovely and fitting feast to celebrate after the birth of Jesus! The Holy Family refers to **Jesus, Mary** (Jesus’s mother), and **Joseph** (Jesus’s foster father). The Church celebrates and honors the Holy Family as an important reminder of the dignity of family life. Family life has great dignity because God chose it as the most fitting way to send us His Son, Jesus. The family was chosen to play an important role in God’s plan for salvation!

Grow: Joseph, Mary, and Jesus worked together to care for one another and the family home. Cooking, cleaning, prayer, and fellowship are a normal part of family life. It is easy to make the mistake of thinking that helping your mom or dad with a chore, listening to a family story, or keeping one another company isn’t very important. However, the Church reminds us that the family, or the “domestic church,” is the building block of society!

Jesus teaches us that the time we spend within our homes doing the chores we often think are unimportant and caring for one another with simple acts of love is the best way to grow in understanding that we have been entrusted to one another. Family life best prepares our hearts to proclaim and protect the dignity of every human person as we live the Gospel wherever God leads us. Through the day-to-day of family living, we grow in **charity** (the highest form of love).

The Church recognized how important it is to look to the Holy Family as the perfect model for living family life well; this is why Pope Leo XIII placed this feast on the calendar in 1893.

Serve: Serve your family well this week by fostering conversation about the dignity of family life. In what way did Jesus’s family life look like yours? Ask these questions and others with our Domestic Church Life Focus Guide!

Mary, Mother of God

On the first day of the calendar year, **January 1st**, we celebrate the **Feast of Mary the Mother of God**.

When God chose family to be the way He sent His Son into the world, He chose Mary to be the Mother of His Son, Jesus. Mary’s title, “Mother of God,” is fitting because she gave birth to Jesus, who is fully human and fully God.

Pray: Through the intercession of the Holy Family pray for the needs of your own family asking that each of you may grow in virtue and closer to the heart of God. Conclude with the prayer below. (Be sure to pray it as a family!)

“May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless and protect all the world’s families, so that within them may reign the serenity and joy, justice and peace that the newborn Christ has given as a gift to humanity.”

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II, 12/30/2001

