

Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Year C

1) Readings: 1) 1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28 2) 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 3) Luke 2:41-52

FOCUS: *Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?*

Jesus is the Son of God, sent out of love to do the Father's will. Out of love, he obeys. Through the life and sacrifice of Jesus, we become children of God and heirs to the Kingdom, which in turn requires of us – in love – to *keep his commandments and do what pleases him*. As Christ was meant to be in his Father's house, so, too, are we meant to join him: in worship here in this life and for eternity in the next. We do this through love of God and one another, with the help of the Spirit he gave us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Hannah bears a son and offers him to the Lord. John writes that the Father's love *bestowed on us* has allowed us to be *called the children of God*, and *we should ... love one another just as he commanded us*. In the Gospel, Mary and Joseph search for Jesus *with great anxiety*. After they find him in the temple, Jesus explains that he had to be in his Father's house.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: We turn to our loving Father with humble and trusting hearts, placing our prayers before him.

- 1) That all members of the Church, through God's grace, may be faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That those in authority may be guided by the Holy Spirit in seeking justice for their people, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) That those who suffer from chronic illness may be relieved and healed through the gracious mercy of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That this faith community may grow in faith, hope, and love – transformed by grace to a life of Gospel fidelity, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) That those who have died may experience perfect union with the Father in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)