

## Feast of the Holy Family

We should all be interested in the Feast of the Holy Family for we all have family experiences to share about our own family tradition, some good and some not so good. When we sat down for Christmas dinner, my daughter, trying to keep the conversation on our newest son-in-law, asked about his favorite Christmas memory. He just stared at her without saying a word and finally said he would have to think about that question. So we understand that not everyone has a positive memory of family.

So we see in the readings that there was a difficult side to the Holy Family's experiencing coming together as a family as well.

**But their faith in God was strong** as they turned to Him and followed his guidance that He gave through messages from His angels. After moving around and sort of on the run, they finally settled into a community in Nazareth. We don't hear too much about their life until Jesus begins His ministry. We don't hear about the death of St Joseph and the pressure that brought to their family situation.

But we know that life was always hard and filled with much rejection and suffering for Jesus and His Mother. This never stopped Him from fulfilling His heavenly Father's will. He was familiar with the words of Sirach:

**Whoever honors His Father, when He prays, He is heard.**

We are called to be a tangible witness to a CHRIST CENTERED LIFESTYLE.

What does that mean to be Christ centered. We are called to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. We develop this lifestyle by constantly seeking to grow closer to Him by seeking Him in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments and in fellowship with others. We set out to be a part of the Body of Christ with Jesus as our head to guide us along the way.

Jesus always taught that LOVE was the foundation of His teaching. Love for the Father in heaven and love for one another. This love is a love that you hold deep in your heart and it **will never fail**. It will be filled with:

**COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, PATIENCE AND FORGIVENESS.**