



A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE KIDS OF ST. AMBROSE

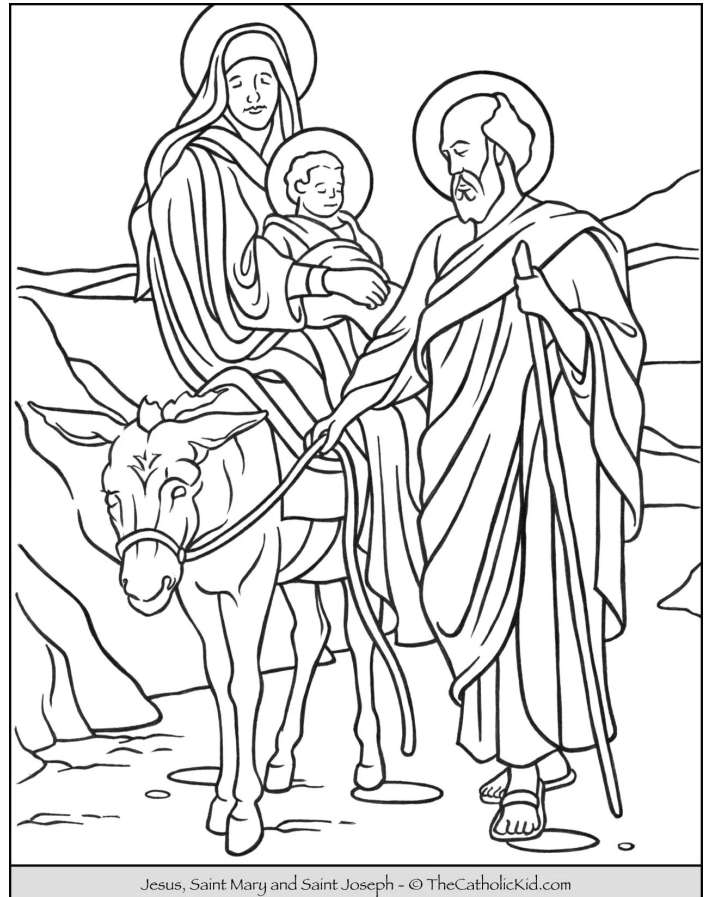
Sunday, December 31, 2023

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

December 31st is the **Feast of the Holy Family!** This feast day honors Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph as the holiest of families, and therefore a model for all Christian families. They were holy because they placed God at the center of their family life, they loved and sacrificed for one another, and they radiated that love to others in the redemptive mission of the Word Incarnate.

The Feast of the Holy Family is not just about the Holy Family, but about our own families, too. Our family becomes sanctified when we live the life of the Church within our homes. This is called the 'domestic church.' Make Christ the center of family and individual life. Ways to do this include reading scripture regularly, praying daily, attending Mass at least on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, imitating the actions of the Holy Family, going to confession frequently, all done together as a family unit. **Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us and our domestic church!**

[Source: EWTN; StMargaretMary.org]



Jesus, Saint Mary and Saint Joseph - © TheCatholicKid.com

FAMILY TIME

*At the dinner table,
in the car,
we talk about our faith,
wherever we are!*



In this week's Gospel, we see a beautiful example of the rewards of being patient and trusting in God's plan and God's timing. Simeon foretold that this Savior would be a light for the whole world - for Israel *and* for the Gentiles. God planned to offer salvation for all!

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

- In what ways can I be more patient?
- In what ways can I trust God's plan and God's timing more?
- Simeon also foretold much turmoil for the Jewish people and much pain for Mary as God's plan for salvation unfolded. What are some examples in our lives where suffering and sacrifice are sometimes necessary to bring about goodness? How might we be called to sacrifice for the Kingdom of God?

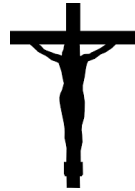
Psalm 105: “The Lord remembers his covenant forever.”

L R S W O N D E R O U S D K X E T S
 K T E T J J Y E I T U S E E K W P E
 A P Z J R B F N A M E Q H X S F R R
 N T R P O E D E E D S R S I N G O V
 A H Y A V I N H H E A R T S S N C A
 T A S A I J C G F A C E L Z P J L N
 I N E A X S M E T M L O R D K W A T
 O K V G Y A E X E H B H T C W L I S
 N S G K Y D E S C E N D A N T S M J
 S P T N H Z D R H F X U W N L D F M
 K O I N V O K E Q J A G L O R Y I D
 K N R C H O S E N O V C M X T D S F

CHOSEN
 DEEDS
 DESCENDANTS
 FACE
 GLORY
 HEARTS
 INVOKE

LORD
 NAME
 NATIONS
 PRAISE
 PROCLAIM
 REJOICE
 SEEK

SERVANTS
 SING
 STRENGTH
 THANKS
 WONDEROUS



Let us show gratitude...

The Feast of the Holy Family is on the first Sunday after Christmas. On this day, we remember that Jesus is with our family always.

Think about your family and how each person helps you grow in your faith. Complete a gift card for each member of your family using the link below.



Simeon holding Jesus, by Andrey Shishkin 2012 © Andrey Shishkin artist

There are many beautiful artistic representations of Simeon with the Christ Child at the Presentation. Examine the one to the left. Do you see how the artist captured Simeon’s wonder, awe, and great love for the Lord? Do you see the heavenly light shining upon them both?

Look at the picture for a few minutes. Then **take a few moments with your eyes closed to turn your heart to the Lord.** In prayer, allow your heart to reach out to Jesus’ heart with **wonder and awe and love.** Tell Him how much you love Him. Tell Him how grateful you are that He came to save us all. Be sure to take time, in silence, to **listen to what He tells you in return.** Can you feel His great love for you?

“...mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.”

Luke 2:30-32