

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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Luke 2:48 - They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.'

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Jesus was born into a family, and grew up like any child. Today's gospel (Luke 2:41-52) presents to us an interesting episode of a twelve year old Jesus who went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover with his parents, something they did every year. For some reasons, Jesus was left behind when they returned home.

The gospel indicates how frustrating this was for both Mary and Joseph. Discovering that their twelve year old son was missing was surely heart-breaking for them. As God fearing parents, they must have even felt that they let God down by failing to look after this very special child, who was actually God's son. Those almost three days of looking for him in vain must have even worsened the situation.

Was he actually lost? He was in the Temple teaching. God's own begotten Son was in God's house teaching about God. His answer that he must be in his Father's house bore testimony to that. This was the moment when his divinity was made manifest at the age of twelve. His response to his parents appears to be very rude. Surely a twelve year old boy cannot tell his parents that they should have not looked for him when he was actually missing. Surely it was God speaking here, and Mary meditated on this revealed word of God.

Traditionally we are told that Jesus began his ministry in Galilee at the age of thirty. The gospel ends by stating that he went down with them to Nazareth and lived under their care. So for the next eighteen years of his hidden life in Nazareth, Jesus lived in total obedience to his parents, even after the revelation of his divine nature at twelve. This is the humble and obedient nature of the fully divine Jesus of Nazareth. We ask him to inspire us with his humble and obedient nature.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious and Joyful mysteries as I pray for your personal intentions, and those of your families.

Have a wonderful Holy Family Sunday.