

## Feast of the Holy Family

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

ADVANCED  
 AGE  
 ANXIETY  
 ASTON-  
 ISHED  
 CARAVAN  
 FATHER  
 FAVOR

FEAST  
 JERUSALEM  
 JOURNEYED  
 LISTENING  
 NAZARETH  
 OBEDIENT  
 PARENTS  
 PASSOVER

QUESTIONS  
 RELATIVES  
 TEACHERS  
 TWELVE  
 WISDOM

## Catechizing Corner!

Even though we are tempted to empathize with the frantic parents of the lost adolescent, we miss the point of the story if that becomes our central focus. Providing an historical account of an event in the early family life of Jesus is not the intent of this gospel. If it were, would not the child have responded to his parents' frantic fear with covenant love and respect? The first reading asserts that children must treat their parents with great admiration and deference. By normal standards, then and now, it would not be very respectful for a twelve-year-old to take off, without the permission of parents, to go to the temple and preach to the elders without so much as an "I'm sorry, Mom and Dad, for putting you through so much." That would have been as unthinkable in Jesus' time as it is now. We are thus forced to look beyond the literal hearing of this story to the theological intent of the gospel. The purpose of Luke's story is christological; it attests that Jesus was the Son of God even as a boy. He worked similar signs and used theological language just as he would in his adult ministry. Robert Tannehill states: "The scene of the boy Jesus in the temple anticipates Jesus' ministry by presenting to the reader a twelve-year-old with precocious understanding of religious questions and with a developing sense of his own special destiny." When Jesus' parents misunderstand the implication of the event, they foreshadow the disciples who will also one day misunderstand Jesus' mission. Luke begins to present preview glimpses of what it means to be Jesus, the Son of God.

Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship Workbook, Cycle C Paulist Press, 1998



Holy Family Catholic Church  
 South Pasadena, CA  
[www.holyfamily.org](http://www.holyfamily.org)

## Disciple's Reflection for the Question of the Week

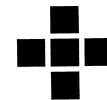
Feast of the Holy Family  
 12/29/24

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God  
 Luke 2:41-52

Faith Sharing  
 Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

*Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!*

## Call to Prayer

*Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Let us pause for a moment, and listen

## The Word of God uke 2:41-52

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of **Passover**, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

### Gospel Glossary

**Passover** was the most important Jewish holiday, and many people traveled to Jerusalem for the feast. It commemorates the night that God delivered his people from slavery in Egypt.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and **favor** before God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord



To advance in **favor** means to become more and more lovable and pleasing.

## Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:  
*Choose one*

How are you, too, called to our Father's house?

What is one concrete, specific action I can take this week that will support family values, either in my own family or in the families of others?

Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

Why is it important to obey our parents?  
Why is it important to obey God?

## Closing Prayer

God, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. Grant this through your son Jesus who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**Feast of the Holy Family**