



Holy Family

Whenever we talk about Holy Family the first family comes to our mind is Jesus' family Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Even though they lived mostly the same life as we live today there some differences between their family and ours. Let us discuss some points about their family life.

Firstly we read about the Holy Family in the bible is the refusal of Joseph to accept Mary as his wife because she was conceived before they came together **“This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly”** (Matthew 1:18-19) While Joseph was thinking about it the word of God came to him through the Angel to accept Mary as his wife and he did. So we can conclude that Joseph and Mary gave importance to the word of God than their own preferences. Joseph accepted Mary as his wife and Mary accepted to conceive and to be the mother of Jesus.

Next The Holy Family was together in all their highs and lows of the life. They put their marriage vows to actions. They did not blame and fight with each other when they faced difficulties. For example Mary accepted to go with Joseph to Bethlehem to register their names when Augustus Caesar issued a decree to take census even though she was in her late pregnancy. She did not murmur or argue with Joseph saying how I can travel such a long distance from Judea to Bethlehem during this period of time. The distance is approximately 70 to 90 miles. We read from the bible that during the travel they could not find a place to stay because people are in the move to register their names and all the hotels were probably full. Again we see their togetherness that they both agreed to stay in an animal shed or barn. Now Jesus was born and placed in the manger. Neither Joseph nor Mary murmured

St : Josephs Parish
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

Tamil Mass will be celebrated every second Saturday at 6.45 PM

www.tamilcatholic.org

to God or to the angel about their discomfort in the born and for Jesus being placed in the manger. It is even a good question to know whether they both anticipated and prepared for the birth of Jesus. It is all discomfort all the way from the start but the family was together.

Next characteristic of the Holy Family is that they lived as refugees tossed back and forth between countries. First they had to move from Bethlehem to Egypt overnight because King Herod was searching to kill Jesus. They had no time to plan for their travel. After the death of King Herod the angel told to Joseph to plan to go back to his own country but again they had to abandon that plan and to settle in Nazareth. Too many moves but no one complained and the family was together. They were refugees, as so many families are today. We can read from the newspapers or from the TV that how the Syrian refugees are running from one country to another in the same way Holy Family ran from one country to another still they were together. Their love did not depend on what they possessed or what they lost.

Next the Holy Family lived a very simple or basic life. They just had their basic necessities. They never compared themselves with others and complained to God about their discomfort. Even though Joseph and Mary knew Jesus is the son of God they never advertised it. They kept it themselves. In a world where God is projected to be the giver of luxurious life the very first Christian family lived a simple life even though many rich people lived in their society during their time. They did not pray and ask God for a luxurious life. It was not even in their wish list.

UpComing Events

Valentine's Day Tamil

Mass: Feb 11th , 6.45 PM.

St Joseph's Church , Mountain View



I sometimes wonder how come Mary and Joseph never asked Jesus anything for their own family. In fact Mary asked Jesus to help in the wedding at Cana when they ran out of wine but the same Mary never requested anything from Jesus for her or for her family. How did they do that? One reason I can think of they never compared their life with their friends, relatives, upper class or rich people. They lived to please God not to get recognition from people. We can also give this technique a try in our lives. If we don't compare ourselves with others we may live a simple life, we may not be recognized but we can do great things to God and to the other less privileged people of God.

While we discuss some characteristics of the Holy Family let us check whether our families are living and following the footsteps of the Holy Family or are we running behind more luxurious life, more recognitions, more wealthier life than our friends and relatives?

Pope John Paul II called the Holy Family of Nazareth "the prototype and example for all Christian families."

Holy Family of Nazareth help our families to follow your life.

Each year immediately after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family.

- Leenus

Pope Francis' prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate

the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too

may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,

may families never again experience violence, rejection and division:

may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops

make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

graciously hear our prayer.



<https://www.facebook.com/gobatcc>

