The Holy Family

We call Jesus’ family the Holy Family, and rightly so. But perhaps we have an idealized picture of it: angels whispering in the ears of Mary and Joseph telling them what to do in moments of doubt, warning them in times of danger, and so on. It’s as if they never had a doubt, never had to agonize over a decision. So how can the Holy Family become a model for our families?

Moreover, we tend to see the home of Nazareth as a place where perfect harmony and complete understanding always reigned. It’s as if Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived on a sunlit island, cut off from the storms of the world. We are not told much about the life of the Holy Family in the Gospels. All we get are some glimpses. But these glimpses are enough to show how unreal the above picture is. We see that the Holy Family had more than its share of troubles.

For instance, when the time came for Jesus to be born, Joseph and Mary could find no accommodation. And their joy at his birth was short-lived because he immediately became a target for Herod’s murderers. So they were told to take the child and flee to a foreign country, where they discovered what it was like to be an alien.

Back in their own country, they had to find a place where they could begin life all over again. So they settled in Nazareth. When Jesus was twelve, during a visit to Jerusalem, he got lost. Joseph and Mary sought him with fear and sorrow in their hearts.

During his public life, Mary didn’t always understand what Jesus was doing. She feared that he was being taken over by the crowds. On one occasion she made a vain attempt to rescue him. Later she saw the tide of sorrow pierce her heart, and a real spear pierced the heart of her Son.

In view of all this, no one can claim that the Holy Family lived a sheltered and trouble-free life. Our families too are visited by sorrow, misunderstanding, and problems of one kind or another. Because the Holy Family knew sorrow, trouble and pain it can serve as a model for us. There is no such a thing as a perfect family. Every family goes through rough times. Every family has to make sacrifices. Wherever human beings are living under one roof, misunderstanding and conflicts occur. All of us are wounded by sin. What is important is how we deal with these problems, and how we resolve these conflicts.

The Holy Family had to struggle and to make sacrifices. But these are precisely the things which form a bond between people. People are closer to one another in hard times than in good times. There is nothing like shared hardships to create a bond between people. There is more depth to relationships that have weathered some storms.

Holiness is the fruit of sacrifice and struggle. Ideally there is no place like home. But there is no such place as an ideal home.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Héctor Návalo, C.M.F.
FROM OUR PARISH

DECEMBER 30th, 2012
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
Liturgies This Week

Saturday 12/29 4:00 pm +Héctor Návalo Padre +Obdulia Romero
Sunday 12/30 9:30 am +Maria Teresa Hadar
12:30 pm +Héctor Návalo, Padre +Obdulia Romero
6:00 pm +Héctor Návalo, Padre +Obdulia Romero
Monday 12/31 4:00 pm Vigil Mass
Tuesday 01/01 9:30 am English Mass
12:30 pm Spanish Mass
Wednesday 01/02 8:00 am No Mass
Thursday 01/03 8:00 am No Mass
Friday 01/04 8:00 am No Mass
Saturday 01/05 4:00 pm +Ellsworth Domer
Sunday 01/06 9:30 am
12:30 pm +Héctor Návalo, Padre +Obdulia Romero
6:00 pm +Héctor Návalo, Padre +Obdulia Romero

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31
--New Year’s eve Vigil Mass 4:00 pm
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1st
--New Year’s Day
  9:30 am English Mass
  12:30 pm Spanish Mass
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2nd- 11th
--Fr. Hector to attend a Claretian meeting in California thru Friday, January 11

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JANUARY5/6
--Missionary Priest from Food for the Poor will be celebrating Mass
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH
--Parish Council Meeting after 6:00 pm Mass

MINISTER’S SCHEDULE
JANUARY 5-6, 2013

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY


PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Please pray for the following friends and family of Sacred Heart in the military: Jesus Orozco, Jr., Andres Orozco, Jon Swisher, Kevin Petersen, Thomas Milam, Christopher Siegismund, Chris Michael, Michael Kellner, Aaron Kellner, Aaron Belt, Carlo Lorge, Tessi Bowmaker, Will Hornback, Ken Austin, Jason Jennings, Jenna Murphy, Emilio Valdez, David Lukansky, Daniel Newsome, Donald Moor, Heath Jennings, Peter Pohl and Thomas J. Peebles

OUR GIFT TO GOD
DECEMBER, 2012

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL YOU SACRED HEART PARISHIONERS FOR GOING OVER $60,000 IN SCRIP CARD PURCHASES.

SCRIP--- The magic numbers 4-81-1,313-2,432-1,580-60,570.
4  THE AVERAGE % PER CARD ON THE CARDS SOLD
81 TOTAL PARTICIPATING FAMILIES IN THE PROGRAM
1,313 CARDS SOLD IN JUST 29 WEEKS
2,432 DOLLARS RAISED FOR SACRED HEART
1,580 DOLLARS WORTH OF CARDS SOLD LAST WEEKEND
60,570 DOLLARS IN SCRIP CARD SALES
At this average of $1,781 sales and $71 in rebates, we will sell $92,536 in cards and our rebate will be over $3,719.

Workers for the weekend of January 5 & 6
Saturday 1/5—Larry & Ruth Kellner
Sunday 1/6—Rose Leyva & Robyn Stock

ALTAR SPONSOR
In Honor of
Walter & Melva Levy, Chester & Roberta Garrison

SOLEMNITY OF MARY
On New Year’s Day, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God. The divine and virginal motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular salvific event for Our Lady it was the foretaste and cause of her extraordinary glory; for us it is a source of grace and salvation because "through her we have received the Author of life."
The Vigil Mass will be on Monday, December 31st at 4:00 pm and Mass on New Year’s Day will be at 9:30 am in English and 12:30 pm in Spanish.

Dear Brothers & Sisters: The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord is very close. It is a very old tradition among Hispanics to share a sweetbread that has the meanings of Epiphany and the Three Kings. Also on that day they usually distribute gifts that symbolize the gifts brought to the Baby Jesus. I invite you to be part of this event after the 12:30 pm Mass on Sunday, January 6 in the Parish Hall. God Bless You, Br. Manolo

EXTRA VASES
If you would like to have some extra vases, you may take them from the work sacristy.

OFFICE CLOSING
The parish office will be closing at 4:00 pm on Monday, December 31st. The office will be closed for New Year’s Day on Tuesday, January 1st. We wish you a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT VIRTUS TRAINING
The next Virtus training sessions are scheduled for:
Monday, January 7, 6:00–9:00PM, Branson, Our Lady of the Lake,
Wednesday, January 9, 9:30AM–12:30PM, Springfield, Immaculate Conception School
Wednesday, January 9, 5:30–8:30PM, Carthage, St. Ann School,
Monday, January 21, 6:00–9:00PM, Branson, Our Lady of the Lake.
Pre-registration is necessary: Go to www.virtus.org and click on registration on the left, or register at the training by arriving early. Participants must be present for the entire training, and sessions are for adults only. Updated schedules may be found at www.virtus.org or at www.dioscg.org.

FATHER HECTOR TO ATTEND CLARETIAN GATHERING
Father Héctor will be attending a Claretian Meeting from Wednesday, January 2 thru Friday, January 11. During his absence, a priest from Food for the Poor will be celebrating the weekend Masses on January 5 and 6. We will not have the weekday Masses except on Tuesday, January 8 at 6:00 pm and Wednesday, January 9, at 8:00 am. Brother Manolo will also be attending the meeting from January 7 thru January 16.

BAPTISMS
Starting in January, Baptisms in Spanish will be held the first and third Saturday at 1:00 pm. The ones in English will continue to be celebrated after the 4:00 pm Mass.
MISSOURIANS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY

Our US Catholic Bishops have called for the repeal of the death penalty in the US. The Springfield Chapter of the Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty works to repeal the death penalty in Missouri. Please join us in our efforts. Our next meeting is Monday, January 7 at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Parish. For more information see www.madpmo.org or call Donna at 459-2960.

FEELING LUCKY?

St Joseph Catholic Academy is raffling a beautiful 1.8 carat Diamond Solitaire ring appraised at $8500. The drawing will be held at The Tower Club on March 9, 2013 in conjunction with the academy’s spring fundraiser, Evening At His Table. Winner does not have to be present to win; chances are $25 each. For purchase information please call the school office at 866-0667.

SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

First annual SHAMROCK SHOOTOUT SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT scheduled for January 26, 2013 at Springfield Catholic High School Gym beginning at 8:30 a.m. Open to girls and boys grades 3-6; $100/team, 3 game guarantee; MSHSAA-certified referees; 20-minute games. Deadline for registration is January 11. Funds raised will support the Honoring our Past...Building our Future capital campaign for the renovations and additions to Springfield Catholic High School. For additional information call (417) 844-5688 or visit our website www.scspk12.org.

Emerald Evening 19: The Celebration” – dinner, dance, auction, raffle drawing to take place on Saturday, March 16, 2012 at University Plaza. SELLING- Raffle Tickets $50/ticket to win CASH PRIZE of $5,000, $2,500 or $1,000 OR $25/ticket or 5 tickets for $100 to win $3500 toward 2013-2014 tuition to any of the Springfield Catholic Schools!!! Need not be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased after Masses OR by contacting either Erin Sanders at (417) 848-3461 or SCS Central Office at (417) 865-5567.

SC FIGHTIN’ IRISH WINTER BASEBALL CAMP

The camp for Catholic students grades 5–8 will be held in January and February at Balls N Strikes in Nixa by SCHS Coach Jason Daugherty. Cost for the 10-Hour – 5-Session camp is $50. For details and more information, contact Pat Shaughnessy at (417) 860-4487.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGs

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Scripture References</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 John 2:18-21, Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 John 1:1-18</td>
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<td>1 John 2:22-28, Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 John 1:19-28</td>
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<td>1 John 3:311-21, Psalm 100:1b-2, 3,4,5 John 1:43-51</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Mathew 2:1-12</td>
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