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And yet, we all belong to God's family. The Son of God became man by fitting into a real family – one that did not enjoy the best of circumstances. Remember that Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph in a tiny village that was far from the sophistication of Jerusalem. At the first opportunity, Jesus ran away for a brief stay in the Holy City. His cautious father, a carpenter, probably worked on the houses of the lower classes and obviously was not a scholar who could comment on Jewish law. Mary managed their ordinary family life with the resources available. Did these circumstances appeal to God? They pleased God so that his Son was born into this modest family. God, through Jesus, is close to humanity. This is our good fortune.

At this time when society often cannot provide us with models to emulate, the Holy Family reminds us that God adopted and included us in his divine family. He provided us with the example of a mother who had a child of mysterious birth, of a broad-minded adoptive father and of an offspring who challenged family members with his speeches and exploits. All of this can reassure us of the value of our own family. Despite whatever challenges we face, our families can still strive for *holiness*! Our families can embrace the greatest commandment: love of God and of our neighbors. The second reading today is explicit: *And this is his commandment: that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.* We can see amazing results over time, results celebrated in this Sunday's psalm: *Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.*

Alain Faucher, ptre

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli



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Sunday December 30, 2018

The Holy Family

Gospel today relates a stressful family situation experienced by Jesus' parents. It describes their pilgrimage to Jerusalem and their young teenager who didn't return home with them. His parents assumed he was travelling with relatives. Instead he remained behind and his frantic parents finally found him in the Temple of Jerusalem where he was listening to the teachers and asking questions. When Jesus chose to remain in Jerusalem, his anxious parents struggled to understand his reasoning. After they found him, the family unit returned home and life continued as before.

When you think about it, this passage strikes home for many families. The word "family" is not often associated with *perfection* and very seldom with *holy*. Realistically speaking, our family experiences are often full of challenges and limitations. We may even feel that our infinitely perfect God must be far removed from our seemingly endless conflicts. Our flagrant lack of charity for other members of our families is often a sharp contrast to the calm that unites the Holy Trinity. God, in His perfection, may seem light years away from the skirmishes and reconciliations that permeate our lives.

The Week at a Glance

Sat Dec 29	7:30pm Mass in Arborfield For Souls in Purgatory
Sun Dec 30	9:00 am Mass in Carrot River For the people 11:00am Mass in Zenon Park For Edwin Lee
Mon Dec 31	7:30pm Mass in Arborfield For Souls in Purgatory
Tues Jan 1	9:00am Mass in Carrot River For †Paul Nesdoly 11:00am Mass in Zenon Park For the people
Wed Jan 2	no mass
Thurs Jan 3	no mass
Fri Jan 4	no mass
Sat Jan 5	7:30pm Mass in Zenon Park For †Joe Greaves
Sun Jan 6	9:00 am Mass in Arborfield For the people 11:00am Mass in Carrot River For Relatives of Neil & Wilma Wheeler

New Year's Day mass in Arborfield Mon Dec 31 7:30 pm

Mass Times for Jan/Feb

Sat 7:30pm – Zenon Park

Sun 9:00am – Arborfield

Sun 11:00am – Carrot River

Mass Time	Jan Feb	Mar Apr	May Jun	Jul Aug	Sep Oct	Nov Dec
7:30 PM	ZP	AR	CR	ZP	AR	CR
9:00 AM	AR	CR	ZP	AR	CR	ZP
11:00 AM	CR	ZP	AR	CR	ZP	AR

Announcements and Activities

Ministry	Dec 29	Jan 1	Jan 6
Commentator	Joann	Neil	Liz
Reader	Pam	Jeanne	Mark
Cup	Sue, Neil	Neil, James	Guy, Sue
Hospitality	Brian, Pam	Bronners	Bob & Lisa
Offerings	Gabe, Mary	Liz, Guy	Gabe, Mary
Sacristan	Joann	Jeanne	Sue

Cleaning Schedule

Dec 31 - Jan 6, 2019	Dale, Rita & Stacey Mutimer
Jan 7 - Jan 13, 2019	

Last week's collection total: **\$ 345.00**

Christmas eve: \$1,305.00 Thank You

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018:
"What Must We Do... to Build the Kingdom of God?"
 Every gift is greatly appreciated!
 Parish Contributions to date **\$3,310** of our goal of \$4075