



## ***FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY*** ***Year C – December 30, 2018***

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Gospel (Luke 2:41-52) has a message for all of us, and the message is that we need to invest more of our time, -- quality time, -- in our family life.

The Old Testament is filled with many ways to do that.

The prophet Sirach (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14) reminds us that our concern should not only be for children, but for our parents as well.

He says, kindness to a father or mother will not be forgotten by God. It will be counted against the debt of our sins.

In the alternate reading from Genesis, Abram is reminded of the importance of family and the need to trust God that he will provide all that is needed - not all that is wanted -- but all that is needed.

St. Paul reminds us (Colossians 3:12-17) that in our families, we need heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. We must bear with one another and forgive one another. Not always easy to do but it's the only way to effect healing and reconciliation.

The gospel reminds us that in that kind of environment, even the son of God grew in wisdom, age and grace...

Every member of every family is important in God's eyes - spouses, parents, children, brothers and sisters. We are reminded that families without children are important too and are called to holiness.

Our challenge is to model our families on the holy family of Nazareth and make our families, -- holy places of peace, understanding, forgiveness and love.

For a few moments in silence, reflect on what family means to you and how you will make quality time for your family in the New Year. Is there a need for forgiveness in your family?

