

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 31

*Seventh Day in the
Octave of Christmas*

1 Jn 2:18–21 • Jn 1:1–18

Tuesday

JANUARY 1

*Solemnity of Mary
the Holy Mother of God*

Nm 6:22–27

Gal 4:4–7

Lk 2:16–21

Wednesday

JANUARY 2

*Sts. Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and
Doctors of the Church*

1 Jn 2:22–28

Jn 1:19–28

Thursday

JANUARY 3

Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 2:29–3:6

Jn 1:29–34

Friday

JANUARY 4

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious*

1 Jn 3:7–10 • Jn 1:35–42

Saturday

JANUARY 5

*St. John Neumann,
Bishop*

1 Jn 3:11–21 • Jn 1:43–51

Sunday

JANUARY 6

The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1–6

Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6

Mt 2:1–12

Dear Padre,

The Church emphasizes the feast of the Holy Family. But Jesus does not seem to be much of a family person. Instances in Scripture when Jesus was a child show him ignoring, even rejecting, Mary and Joseph.

It becomes clear, as Jesus grows in age and wisdom, that he has not come to build his own little family, but to build a worldwide family of disciples. This family would claim God as the Father of all, with Jesus and others as brothers and sisters in the family. All who followed him would be as dear to Jesus as his mother or his foster father.

Mary's and Joseph's roles were not only to be Jesus' earthbound parents but, more importantly, to be examples of how to follow God's purpose. Mary and Joseph accepted God's path for them, even though they didn't know where it would lead. Mary calls herself the handmaid of the Lord, and Joseph follows God's instruction and marries Mary, even though it was contrary to all reason and caused him scandal.

In the family of God, we seek and follow God's purpose. We are to say yes with Mary; we are to imitate Joseph in following God's direction, even though our actions may seem countercultural or even scandalous.

Jesus said plainly: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35). God's will becomes the cornerstone of Jesus' new, universal family of humankind. Every Christian family, then, has a double task in raising their children: teaching and inspiring them to love their blood family, but also teaching and inspiring them to love and believe in Jesus and seek God's will.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
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A Word From Pope Francis

Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence. This last was an experience that, sad to say, continues to afflict the many refugee families who in our day feel rejected and helpless.

—Amoris Laetitia, March 19, 2016



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