

This Week's Readings

- 1st Reading:** Samuel 1: 20-22, 24-28
Samuel, as long as he lives, shall be dedicated to the Lord.
- 2nd Reading:** First Epistle of John 3: 1-2, 21-24
We are called children of God. And so we are.
- Gospel:** Luke 2: 41-52
Jesus absents himself from his family and shows that he is discovering his relationship with, and responsibility to, his Father.

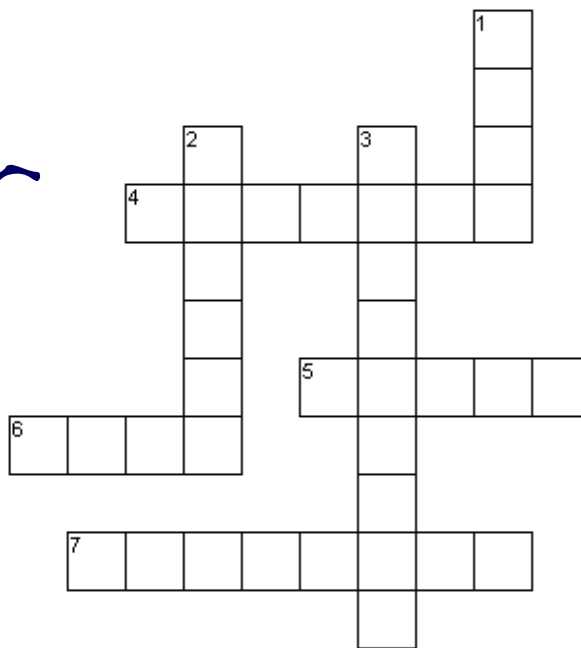
Points for Reflection

- The Feast of the Holy Family, fixed by the liturgy of the Christmas season, makes it clear that when the Son of God came into the world, he wanted to be like any other man: to have a country and an earthly family; a family so simple and humble as to be indistinguishable on the exterior in every way from other Jewish families.
- The Church, by establishing the Feast of the Holy Family, wants to present a model to our families to follow:
 - The Model for Modern Families**
Unfortunately, nowadays the family is passing through a traumatic experience. Its traditional values, its morals, its economy, its functions and purpose are under scrutiny and attack. No wonder that there are so many broken families. Against this background, the Church sounds the alarm and proposes to all Christian families that they model their lives on the holiest of families that ever lived on earth.
 - The Model for Fathers**
Joseph is the model for fathers. Patiently and humbly he worked to provide the necessities of life for his wife and for the child Jesus. He could not always give them all he would wish for them, but he did what he could, gladly and humbly. To his neighbors he was just another carpenter unknown to the world, of no importance in their eyes. Yet, his name would become known and revered until the end of time.
Today, many fathers are living a life of obscurity: a life of monotonous toils, a daily struggle to provide bread. They will never make the headlines in the newspapers, but they are playing an essential part in God's plan for providing children for heaven. If they carry out faithfully the task God has given them, their names will be written in the book of life.
 - The Model for Mothers**
Mary is the perfect example for all mothers. She was a dutiful, faithful wife and an ideal and loving mother. How often she must have regretted that her beloved spouse had to struggle so hard to earn their meager daily bread. How great must have been her grief that she could not give her beloved child more comforts in his infancy and youth. She had days of sorrow and anxiety, which culminated at the foot of the cross on Calvary. But she accepted it all as God's will, for the salvation of the world.
Like Mary, mothers today have a great task to perform for God. By their words and example, they are the first preachers of the faith to their children when they encourage them to lead a very Christian life.
 - The Model for Children**
Children's duty in the family is to love, honour and obey their parents. Their model is none other than Jesus of Nazareth, who, though he was God, made himself subject to Joseph and Mary. Children should always remember what their parents have done for them in their infancy when they were unable to help themselves. They should show their gratitude by obeying their parents.
- The Holy Family is proposed to us as an example to follow and an ideal to be cherished. Our communities would be much happier if our families reflected the lives of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

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Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Sr Mary Leung (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Mass Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)
Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 6.00pm Saturdays: 10.00am – 12 noon Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Confessions: Sundays before Mass; Weekdays on call
Parish Council Chairlady: Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays: 2.30pm 1 st Thursday of the month 8.00 pm

Kid's Corner: "The Feast of the Holy Family"



Across

4. Mary's sorrow culminated at the foot of the cross on _____.
5. The model for all Christian children is _____.
6. Children's duty is to love, honour and _____ their parents.
7. The Church proposes to all families that they model their lives on the Holy Family of _____.

Down

1. The perfect example for all mothers is _____.
2. The Son of God came in to the world to have a country and an earthly _____.
3. Joseph was a _____ by trade.