

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION
The Feast of the Holy Family
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025

Faithful Hearts in Times of Trial



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MCCJ, pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

As this year draws to a close and we prepare to step into a new one, it is natural to reflect on our lives, especially our families. Each of us carries deep impressions from the home that raised us. Some of these memories are filled with joy and stability. Others are marked by challenge, disappointment, or even pain. Regardless of the circumstances, our family experiences shape how we see ourselves and how we relate to others. A familiar saying reminds us that children learn by what they live. For better or worse, the lessons of the home travel with us into adulthood.

In the midst of the complexities and burdens that family life can bring, our Christian calling remains unchanged. We are called to love. The Lord asks us to be compassionate and kind, patient and generous, humble and forgiving. Yet this is easier said than done. When certain family members upset us or disagree with us, it is tempting to withhold affection. When wounds from the past still hurt, we may carry resentment that influences our behavior. Without noticing, we may even fall into the cycle summed up by another saying. Hurt people hurt people.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we are given a powerful example of a different way. The Gospel this weekend recounts what happened immediately after the visit of the Magi. Joseph is warned in a dream to take the child Jesus and his mother to Egypt because Herod seeks to destroy the newborn king. Joseph trusts and obeys. He rises in the night, gathers his family, and flees from danger. Later, when the threat has passed, he leads them safely back to the land of Israel. In every moment, Joseph's actions reveal a heart completely surrendered to God. Mary, too, remains steadfast, trusting the word spoken by the angel that her child is Emmanuel, God with us. Together they face uncertainty, displacement, and fear, yet they stay united in their love for God and for one another.



Their life was not free from hardship, but it was filled with grace. It is precisely in their ordinary daily fidelity that Jesus grew in wisdom, age, and favor. The Holy Family shows us that holiness is not found in perfection. It is found in love. It is found in the willingness to protect one another, to trust God completely, to keep moving forward in faith even when circumstances are difficult.

As we honor Jesus, Mary, and Joseph today, let us ask ourselves: Where might God be inviting us to strengthen the bonds within our own families? Is there a place that needs healing, forgiveness, or renewed patience? Can we reach out to a family member who feels distant or forgotten?

May the Holy Family accompany us into the coming year. May our homes grow into places of communion and peace, where God's love is both given and received. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, make our families holy like yours. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy

OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH