

A Message from Fr. Jim

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and Mary Mother of God. Can it be more obvious that we are called to focus on our families this week?

The family is the very nucleus of society and the foundation on which one lives one's life. It is within the family that we learn right from wrong. It is the family that teaches us to share, to forgive, to endure, to make peace, to love. The example of the Holy Family encourages all families to love one another to stand by one another, to support one another.

You may say, "Father, that's not my family", "Everyone is self-centered, there is a lack of love or caring. No one is perfect in my family." I say "Join the Club!" All families are disordered! Have you ever looked at the genealogy of Jesus' family and who some of His family members were? They broke every commandment! Some were thieves, alcoholics, adulterers, self-centered egoists, murderers, pleasure seekers of all kinds. His family is those who broke the law of God and man. Yet look at the Holy Family.

Remember that love is a choice. It is a choice to follow Jesus closely. It is a choice to prefer the beloved before oneself. It is within the family that we first learn and practice love.

Jesus entered His own creation as a little baby restoring the dignity and the holiness of all families. You and I must make our families holy. We must love, love till it hurts. Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say "Love until it hurts and then you will find there is no more hurt, just Love."

Through the intercession of Mary, The Mother of God, may God Bless and keep you and your family in peace and love.

God Bless,

Fr. Jim