

December 27, 2020 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – Cycle B  
Fr. Larry Richards

Good Morning - Good Morning, Father. And, how are you? Blessed!

I'm so glad you are here! We only had 30 people last night for 4:15 pm Mass. Christmas of course, because of Covid and because of snow, we didn't have a good crowd, either. So, I thought, oh, oh, people are getting too comfortable with this stuff being at home. So, thank you for coming to the Mass. Those of you who are at home, I understand completely. And thank you also for those of you who took the time to send cards or call or bring gifts. It was helpful because it's a hard Christmas for me being alone the last couple days. It reminded me that you are my family, you are the ones who support me, you are the ones I am a Father to, and I pray for. So, thank you for all of those who reached out to me, either online or here at the parish.

So, as today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. So, first of all, I want to encourage you, when you do say your rosary, today, and you spend time there, as I talked about, for the 12 Days of Christmas, with Jesus, Mary and Joseph as Jesus was being born. Just spend time, watching, spend time, being, with Mary and with Joseph and with Jesus. What they were like as a family: how they loved each other, as they put each other first. Because that's what love does. And, then enter into, like today we hear what Simeon and Anna says about him, and about how the parents of Jesus were amazed. Amazed about what was said about Jesus, but just amazed about having Jesus. And I think that's very important for us, especially on the feast of the Holy Family, because we have stopped being amazed about our families. You know, when you look at your spouse, are you amazed by them? Or, are you like "Ahhhh"? I heard a giggle, don't do that. But the reality is, we don't get amazed anymore by our spouses, by our children, by our parents. We take them all for granted. And, if you read in the paper today. I just thought, how sad that was: front page of the paper, man talked about how he lost his mother to Covid. The last time he saw her, he could only talk to her from the screen door. Thinking everything would be fine. Life is too short. We always have a choice, how we look at our family. We can be amazed at them, and amazed at their gifts, and amazed at their presence. Or we can just take them for granted, or be irritated, or be like "Ah." And this time with family has been totally different than any other year. Some of you have spent more time with family, and some of us have spent less time with family. Both have good, and both have bad. I have a good friend out in California, who said Covid is the best thing that has happened to his family, because he has spent all the time with them now. He was always on the road. And he said, I so much enjoy being with them. Other people, it isn't helping at all. Abuse: physical, mental, spiritual, abuse is higher than ever in the state, and throughout the world. Because spending time with people has not been so good. Being separated from our families has been hard. But I think, if we can just sit there and be grateful for them, and for who they are, and for who we want them to be, and be amazed by them. That can really give us hope in our hearts, love in our hearts, and transform us, but can transform our whole family. Our families are not going to be with us forever. So, we need to treasure them while we have them. We need to be amazed by them.

So, today, another thing I encourage you to do is to go and think of every person in your family. And, you can write it down, might be even more helpful to do that. But, write down, and think of what it is that amazes you about your spouse, that amazes you about each of your children, that amazes you about your parents and grandparents. And, let us, as we reflect on the Holy Family, see how great and amazing they were, and to know that Jesus is in every member of your family. Jesus is there; sometimes hidden, sometimes not, but he's is there. And everything that's amazing in Jesus can be amazing in your family, and in you, if we take the time to look, and to see, and to be amazed.

Got it? Get it? Gonna do it? You better. May each of you know his love today, and forever. Amen.

May each of you know his love, now and forever, Amen.