



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO
CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
Module 17 Family Catechesis**

**Feast of the Holy Family Year B December 27, 2020
Luke 2:22-40 A Holy Family Keeps and Shares the Faith**

INTRODUCTION

Talk about expressions in which Christian family show faith in God)

What are some ways in which we express our faith in God? (*daily prayer, reading the Bible, attending Mass, praying the Rosary*) What do we do to show that we are Catholics?

From whom do we learn the importance of these expressions of our faith?

This Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. The Gospel invites us to imitate the example of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Just as Jesus learned about his faith from his parents, children are first taught about our Catholic faith in the family. (Let us pause for a while.)



OPENING PRAYER

(*pause after each intention*)

○ Blessed are you, Lord our God, giver of life: give your strength and wisdom to the father of the family.

○ Blessed are you, Holy Spirit, bearer of love: give your compassion and understanding to the mother of the family.

○ Blessed are you, Son of God, eternal wisdom: give your knowledge and truth to the children of the family.

○ Blessed are you, Holy Trinity, eternal and almighty: shadow with your protecting wings the absent/departed members of all the family.

(Glory Be) *from The Family Prayer Book*

**PHASE ONE
REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS**

1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story

A moment of prayerful silence
We will not be able to understand Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word



A reading from the Gospel of Luke 2:22-40

by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what

stands written in the law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: ‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.’

As the child’s father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them . . .

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him The Gospel of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

- What do you say about the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph?
 - Why are they called Holy Family?
- (leave some moments for reflections)

Text in Context

What did the Holy Family do?

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph visited the Temple

What does this gospel tell us about the role of Mary and Joseph? Why did they bring him to the Temple?”

Jesus, the Son of God, obeys the Law of God as he is presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Like any other the Jewish family, Mary and Joseph faithfully followed the religious laws of the time. Jesus as a child must have come to know and love God (faith) from his family and Jewish community.

Who is Simeon in the reading?

Guided by the gift of the Holy Spirit, the old man Simeon tells us about the Infant Jesus and about Mary, his mother. Simeon points to Jesus as the hopes of his own people, and of all peoples. Jesus is to be a ‘light for the nations’ Simeon was a good and devoted Jew. He said he would not die until he had seen with his own eyes the sign of God’s salvation- the Infant Jesus.

How do you think Mary and Joseph feel upon hearing what Simeon (and Ana) said of the child Jesus?

They wondered at what was said about the child. Both of them could not understand what they heard. But they would gradually come to know what God was telling about Jesus.

What does this gospel tell us about Jesus and his parents?"

When Mary, Joseph and Jesus they had done everything the Law of the Lord asked of them they went back from the temple to their own town of Nazareth. Jesus the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favor was with him.

PHASE II REFLECT the Story of the Church (Teachings of the Church)

Let us think of the Child Jesus in the manger with Mary and Joseph. This is a beautiful picture and full of mystery.

Jesus is God, yet he chose to enter into the world through the love of a family. Jesus could have come to us in a spectacular way- a super hero, a mighty warrior or in any great figure you may name. But Jesus, the Son of God chose to be born in a simple family

What makes a family holy?

A family that is holy keeps the faith

Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus in the temple as required by the Law of Moses. They both trust God who is the source of all blessings and life. They recognize that the child belongs to God. They were blessed with a child to guide and protect him. This child grew with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.

The faith of the family is nourished in prayer. We are amazed by the example of families who pray together. This attitude requires simplicity and humility to allow God to be part of family’s daily life.

But some families would say prayer is personal and it seems there is no time to pray in the midst of much concerns and needs of family. Pope Francis reminds us that *all families need God: all of us! We need his help, his strength, his blessing, his mercy, his forgiveness. And we need simplicity to pray as a family: ...*

Let us simply pray the rosary and bless meals together. Nowadays there are many things that threaten the dignity of the family. The values of the world are so attractive that they can easily penetrate into the choices of the family. And it may gradually destroy the real values of family without knowing it. Pandemic has made life more difficult to many families. Pope Francis confirms the need of prayer for one another if we want to stay strong together as a family:

The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparent.

ACTIVITY 1

Encourage each one in the family to pray together. Write the prayers on a piece of paper, big enough for the members of the family to see. It may be *Prayer before or after Meal* to be put at dining room or *Our Father* somewhere in the house. (may be written in dialect)

The Family that is holy shares the faith

Remember Ferdinand Magellan who headed a Spanish expedition and reached Mactan, Cebu on March 16, 1521.

Christianity was then brought to the Philippines. We will celebrate with big thanksgiving to God the 500 years of our Catholic faith soon, year 2021. We are third in the world with big number of Catholics population. We experienced this in the celebration of Simbang Gabi, either online, on TV/radio or actual in the church. Even Pandemic could not stop us from our faith in the One-God who lives among us.

The theme of the celebration is *Gifted to Give*. We come to know God from early missionaries who sacrificed their lives to come to our land. They generously shared their faith to us without cost. Now is our turn to give it to others.

All of us who received the faith by our baptism. We are truly blessed of knowing God and making God part of our lives all these years.

Let us not keep faith to ourselves, as something personal. Let us share it by our witness, by our acceptance of others, by our openness?

It is only then that we will experience the true joy of sharing the love of God. Let us be missionary families keeping the faith and sharing it to other

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story

How will you make this Christmas Season special to your own family and to other families?

How will you keep the faith of the family alive and burning with love?



CLOSING PRAYER

ACTIVITY 2

Write a thanksgiving prayer for our family.

What do you want to thank for?

(Provide paper and pencils and give time to write their prayers)

Each one may share prayer together, asking God to bless and strengthen families especially those who experienced hardships due to pandemic.

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

YOUCAT 86 Jesus was child and received love and affections from his parents and was brought up by them. This he increased ”in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man. ; he belonged to Jewish village community and took part in its religious rituals: he learned a trade and had to prove his ability as a craftsman. The fact that God in Jesus willed to be born into a human family and to grow up in it has made the family a place where God is present and a prototype of a helping community.