

Mass of the Holy Family

1 Samuel 1.20-22, 24-28, 1 John 3.1-2, 21-24, Luke 2.41-52

THEME: Make Your Family/House a Home.

Today, we are celebrating the feast of the Holy Family; The family of Joseph, Mary and Our Lord Jesus. A family that serves as a role model for all the families on earth. This is a united family. A family that loves and forgives each other. A family, where peace and joy abides. A family that puts their trust and hope in God. A family that have each other's interest at heart. This is the family where joys and sorrows are shared together.

As a father, mother or a child in the family, do you feel happy going home after each day's activities? Or does your heart always jump up anytime you remember going to be with your family? As a child, do you feel happy going home after school or do you prefer to hang-out with friends? Are you filled with joy and happiness anytime you hear the car/truck sound that mom or dad is back home? Or does your heartbeat start jumping up at the sound of your parents return?

Together, as a father, mother and children in the house, we can jointly make our families a happy home, where love and joy abide.

The key to a happy home are these; Good understanding, not being selfish, always thinking of the good of all in the family, rather than thinking of only yourself. Bearing in mind that no one is perfect. So we need to tolerate and bear with each other in the family. Learn to forgive and have a heart of "let go". Do not be negative about your marriage/family or that your family or marriage is the worst. Never should you allow your job/work to destroy your family/home. Always make out time for your family and do things together. Some time one has to pretend to be a fool for peace to reign in the family. Stop comparing your family/marriage with others. For each marriage/family is unique. The way it works for others may not be the same with yours.

From the Scriptures today, the parents of Samuel had their problems, they shared and carried it together. The same with our blessed Mother Mary and Joseph. When the child Jesus stayed back after the festival in Jerusalem, both parents looked for him together. They also trusted and believed in God, bearing

in mind that *God* will not abandon them. We can make it, if we give peace a chance in our families and make it a home.