

Chapter 6: The Holy Family

The Holy Family is a model of charity by living with justice and its related virtues.

Chapter Summary

The Holy Family honored God and one another in all they did. They observed the ancient Jewish laws of worship by presenting the infant Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem. The witness of Simeon and Anna in the Temple demonstrates the virtue of gratitude. Later, when Jesus went with Mary and Joseph to the Temple to observe the Passover Feast, He stayed behind. After three days, His parents found Him in the Temple. In this event, we see the Holy Family modeling justice to God and to one another. Mary's reaction to these great mysteries of Jesus' life teaches us how to worship God in prayer. It particularly shows the benefits of mental prayer, or meditation.

The Simple Life

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a model for all families. But interestingly, the Scriptures barely speak of their time together.

This silence of the Scriptures reveals that God is faithfully at work in the quiet, prayerful simplicity of daily life. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph had daily tasks and responsibilities, just like each of our families. They experienced the normal stresses and joys of life, yet they remained centered on God and obeyed His will in all things.

While your family may not be recognized by the world like the Holy Family, your faithfulness and virtuous deeds are seen by God and have a real saving effect on those around you. As a family, consider how you can honor God by doing every daily action, big or small, in charity for Him and others.

Consider these examples for children:

- Wake up early to spend time in prayer and to help your parents with what they need to get ready for work.
- See your homework as a way to glorify God by using the gifts and talents He has given you.
- Think of something you can do without and donate it to a charity.



Consider these examples for parents:

- Unite your daily stresses with the daily stresses that Mary and Joseph felt.
- When you lock up the house at night, pray to Saint Joseph to watch over and protect your family.
- Have dinner together as a family and begin and end with prayer.

For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.

