

Covenant Life

- Our next gathering will be on January 12th when we have a special time of **Eucharistic Adoration** to pray in the New Year. We will not have Children or Youth ministries as they will remain with us for Adoration. The next normal format prayer meeting will be on the fourth Sunday of January at 3pm.
- We completed our **2025 Stewardship Promise & Recommitment Drive** but there is it never too late to respond here: [2025 Promise](#).
- [GodsDelight.org](#) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. While we do not have a lot of details about The Holy Family, we can infer from what we do know that they serve as models for us.

Family is all important. We know that families provide us with identity and a sense of belonging; emotional, moral, physical, and economic support; educational, cognitive, and social development. Those who are raised in a healthy family environment have an incredible head start in life over those who do not. We do not choose our families but are called to embrace them with love, acceptance, commitment, and a desire to preserve unity.

Pondering the family, we see why being a holy family is so hard. Simply put, I suspect it is the devil's number one target. While we would desire that every family be an example of The Holy Family, we know that this is impossible. Life happens. The world, the flesh, and the devil, and just the tugs and pulls of life cause friction impacting familial love.

The readings today provide us with direction in how to combat all these challenges. We are encouraged to honor our fathers and mothers. We are encouraged to fear the Lord and walk in His ways. I think the clearest words for us are found in Paul's letter to the Colossians which is our [Second Reading](#). Dense with direction I encourage careful rereading: *"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against*

another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Reading this, I suspect that we can each immediately think of some way we can be better family members.

I end with a reminder that our Community is a family of families and a home for everyone who does not have a traditional nuclear family. We are and always strive to be a place where we can experience unconditional, sacrificial, familial love. We are a school of virtuous living. Growing up and living in community with you has taught me respect, compassion, mercy, generosity, temperance, fortitude, justice, prudence, and a host of other virtues. Let us never tire of actively living as God's Holy Family, and empowered by His Holy Spirit, following the example of The Holy Family in fulfilling the call God has placed on our hearts.

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, thank You for the family You gave me. I also thank You for the Community and other families that support me. Continue to teach me the virtues that I need to really be a selfless, loving member of Your extended family. Show me how I can cooperate with Your divine will to bring my family with me to meet You face to face. Father God, I love You! Amen."

God Bless,

David