

DECEMBER 27, 2015



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH



SIRACH 3:2–6, 12–14 OR
1 SAMUEL 1:20–22, 24–28

PSALM 128:1–2, 3, 4–5 OR
PSALM 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10

COLOSSIANS 3:12–21 OR
3:12–17 OR 1 JOHN 3:1–2, 21–24

LUKE 2:41–52 OR
LUKE 2:41–52

REFLECTION

In 1 John we are reminded of God's great love for us—we are called his children. That is no small thing. Mary and Joseph loved Jesus, and as his parents, when they realized that he was not with them in the caravan, they went back to Jerusalem and searched for him until they found him in the Temple. They couldn't just leave him behind. He was family and they loved him. Mary was afraid for him and when she saw him she asked him why Jesus would do that to them. I can remember that it was when my mom was most afraid for us kids that she yelled the most and the loudest. While I sure didn't like being yelled at, I know now that it was because she loved me. That's why she had the rules she did—to protect us and guide us. Our human families are not perfect and parents and youth alike make mistakes. Still, families are a sacred gift to us, whether it is the family we are a part of now or even our bigger faith family as children of God. We can strive to help improve our family and strengthen the love that is there. We can do that by following the commandments in the Second Reading of the day: "believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us" (1 John 3:23). We can follow in the steps of Jesus and turn to the Father for strength and guidance, and we can make better efforts to be people of love in our families.



The Catholic News Service and the former Office for Film and Broadcasting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offers movie reviews and a ratings guide for Catholics.

[www.catholicnews.com/
movies.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm)

ACTION

Spend some quality time with your family. Have a game night or watch a movie together. Try picking a movie that has a theme of the importance of family in it. If you can't think of one, search on the Internet for family movies.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What is it that you appreciate the most about your family?
- What can you do to improve your relationships in your family?
- As a child of God, what can you do to "love one another" (1 John 3:11)?