

## Feast of the Holy Family 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, in our Western society, marriage and family have become arbitrary, something people do after they have fulfilled their own desires, have a career, traveled and “done their thing”. Children have become optional, like having a dog or a cat, “it would be nice to do.” These attitudes are very contrary to the design and purpose of God that He has written into our very physical being, and, in fact, are dangerous to the very stability of society itself!

Today, we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family, the model of God’s plan for all of our families. Indeed, we are reminded by this Feast Day, that our families are holy beyond our reckoning, because they are modeled on the very first of families: The Trinity of God! Your family is an Icon of the Trinity; your family molds us into the life of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

The first reading reminds us that family is a gift from God, and our family molds and shapes the whole of our lives, and, molds and shapes our relationship with God and relationships with society itself. The majority of those in prison come from broken families, and broken families continue to shape generations following them; however, so do wholesome families!

A father and mother set in honor and authority over their children, children revering and praying for their parents, families praying together and honoring God together, obedience to one another in love and mutual respect, children caring for aged parents, this a kind of sacrament that makes visible to us the very interior life of God. It was the life of the Holy Family lived out in very simple lives in a back-water Jewish town in Nazareth.

This model of mutual love and respect, help and reliance upon one another is meant, by God, to be the model for society itself. It is not surprise that when the ideal of a family of mutual love and respect breaks down, the very society itself breaks down, and there is nothing but chaos to replace it. Our families are more than what they do for us, they are the yeast and dough of holiness. God gave them to us, and us to them. I very often thank God for the family God gave me,

even though they were not perfect, nonetheless, they imparted to me the values I hold dear and try to practice every day!

All of the readings for the day, and especially the Gospel remind us that the Holy Family, and every holy family in this parish, is centered on Christ: The Holy Family of Jesus is the Icon of our own Holy Families, and the ultimate bedrock of our school of Love! (Blessing and Consecration of the Family)