

## Second Grade: Lesson 18

### Your Family is Important

#### Lesson Objective:

After encountering Christ personally and better appreciating the sacramental life of the Church, children can have a better perspective on the role of the family in supporting children in their journey of faith. Catechists can help children explore the dynamics of family life and the virtues that can be practiced in the home.

#### Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Identify that the community of God includes our families, the class, the parish, the outside community.
- Show how we learn more about ourselves through our relationships with others.
- Retell the story of a personal patron saint and the patron saint or special event connected to the name of the parish and school and recognize the Communion of Saints as the communion of love.
- Analyze how the body reveals that each person is made for relationship with God, others, and the world.
- Discuss ways each of us can contribute to good family relationships.

#### Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, crayons
- Copies: [Holy Family Coloring Sheet](#) (optional), [Discover our Patron Saint](#), [My Family is like the Holy Trinity](#), [My Family Book](#), [Write a Mealtime Prayer](#) (to be sent home)

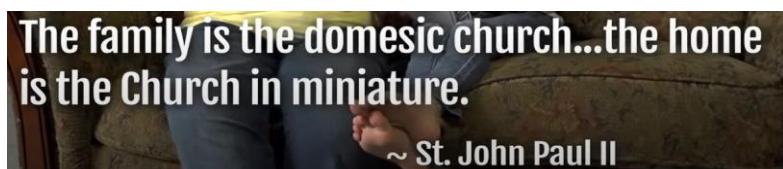
#### As Students Enter Class:

- As students wait for class to begin, consider having a coloring sheet available, such as the one linked below.
- [Holy Family Coloring Sheet](#)

#### Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray the Hail Mary.

Lesson Order	Implementation Idea
Lesson 18 Video	<p>This video is 3:25 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last time, we explored our Church building and learned about the many sacred vessels you can find in the Church. Our Church is a great community of believers. The Community of God also includes families.</p> <p>Each person in a family has special roles. For example, parents work to provide food and shelter for the family. Maybe mom helps you learn how to read or do homework. Maybe your dad teaches you how to play baseball or ride a bike. Brothers and sisters help each other too.</p> <p>Families pray together, perhaps before eating meals and before going to bed. The Rosary is also a great prayer for families to pray together. Praying can be hard when you first start out. (Carla uses learning how to ride a bike analogy). When we help each other, it will get easier. God does not expect us to have fancy words. It's the thought and effort that count.</p> <p>Creating a prayer space in your home is a great way to share a sacred space where your family can join together. What items might you put in a prayer space?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small table</li> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• Prayer cards</li> <li>• Crucifix</li> <li>• Small statue</li> </ul> <p>Within your family is the first place you learn about God. Families show us how to live like Jesus and become holy. Each person has special gifts, talents, and roles. When each person in a community and family live for God, the world becomes a better place.</p>

	<p><b>STOP AND DISCUSS:</b> Think about one person in your family. What makes him or her special in the eyes of God and others?</p>
Families are the Domestic Church	<p>This video is 4:14 in length but ends at 3:42.</p> <p>Highlights: A priest is walking into Mass and says, "This is the universal Church." A mom is putting food on the table and says, "This is the domestic Church."</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>The family is the domestic church...the home is the Church in miniature.</b></p> <p>~ St. John Paul II</p> </div> <p>Cornerstones of the Domestic Church:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Family life is sacred.</li> <li>2) Family life is Holy.</li> <li>3) Families have a unique ministry.</li> <li>4) Families are an evangelizing community.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Imagine that when you are in your home, you behave like you are at Church. How would you speak to each other? How do you spend time together? Examples: Share a meal, share stories, play games, read, and talk about different things.</li> <li>2) The activities you do inside and outside the home are holy. How might this change what you do or how you act?</li> <li>3) Every person in your family brings to the world different gifts. These gifts serve God and others in special ways.</li> </ul> <p><b>STOP AND DISCUSS:</b> What are your gifts? What are you good at that you can share with God and others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4) Families can evangelize: We are all called at Baptism to nurture faith at home so we can</li> </ul>

	<p>go out to the community and evangelize. <b>How can your family fulfill its calling, be the Church in the world?</b></p>
Introduction to the Activities	<p>This video is .20 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: The Holy Trinity is also like a family, connected in love. Your family is like the Holy Trinity too, also connected with love for one another.</p> <p>As you complete the activities today, think about how special your family is and how you and your family are an important part of the Catholic Church.</p>
Discover a Saint	<p>This activity requires some preparation ahead of time; students will need to have information about the patron Saint of your Parish available at their age level.</p> <p>It may be easier for you to prepare some quick facts about your Church's Patron saint and share it with the students. They could draw a picture and then write a sentence that gives a piece of new information they learned about this Patron Saint.</p>
My Family is Like the Holy Trinity	<p>Students will write the words from the word bank into the graphic organizer comparing family and the Holy Trinity.</p>
My Family Book	<p>Students are to draw and then write a sentence explaining how each family member is important.</p> <p>This can be created into a booklet, depending on the amount of time you have available.</p>
Write a Mealtime Prayer with Your Family	<p>This can be sent home for students to do with their families.</p>

**Closing Prayer**

Gather around your prayer space and pray the Hail Mary.

**FOR HOLY FAMILY CATECHISTS: Information for learning about our Patron Saints.**

# What Does the Holy Family Teach Us?

[FATHER EDWARD LOONEY](#)

5 MIN READ

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York houses a beautiful triptych of the Holy Family called the “Mérode Altarpiece,” painted by Robert Campin. The left of the three-paneled piece of art captures an open door of two bystanders peering into the main panel of the Annunciation, while the far-right panel depicts St. Joseph in his carpentry shop. This artistic masterpiece captures who the Christian is as they examine the life of the Holy Family and the extraordinary events surrounding their life and calling from God. Catching a glimpse of that home in Nazareth, where the Christ Child grew in age and wisdom into his adult years, we experience how the Holy Family informs family life in the third millennium. In the biblical stories of Jesus, Mary and Joseph we see their example of virtuous living.

## They Follow God’s Lead

The Scriptures paint the early life of the Holy Family as God calls them to a special mission. With the angel Gabriel, we greet Mary and learn of her calling to become the Mother of God. Our introduction to St. Joseph consists of him deciding to divorce Mary quietly, believing she brought shame and dishonor upon him and his family. But an angel invites Joseph to change his mind and take Mary into his home, to become the guardian of Mary and Jesus, the husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus.

In that home at Nazareth we meet a couple who shows an openness to allowing God to lead their life together. Mary surely had other plans for her life; as many believe, she took a vow of virginity at an early age, so becoming a physical mother was something she did not anticipate. Yet, she heard God's invitation, and knew that His plans were better for her life; therefore, she gives her fiat — that is, her "yes" to God.

St. Joseph opens his heart to the messenger sent by God and takes Mary into his home. This would not be the first or last time that St. Joseph followed God's lead in his life as he protected the Holy Family. After Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, they follow the prompting of an angel to flee into Egypt for safety and wait there until another angelic message leads them back home. The Holy Family is a great example for families everywhere to always be open to whatever God's will might be and to always be listening for God to speak. He might speak his will in prayer or through another person. By our own prayer and discernment, we too can follow God's lead for our life.

## A Teacher of Virtue

The home should be the principal place of catechesis. Unfortunately, many families today allow the Church to fill that role alone. The home of Nazareth, in addition to the local synagogue, would have been the place of instruction for the Christ Child. The Holy Family taught Jesus how to read, and at the start of his public ministry Jesus would read from the scroll and declare the passage to be fulfilled in their hearing (see Lk 4:21). Mary and Joseph would have taught the Christ Child how to pray, especially the Shema, and years later Jesus would teach his disciples how to pray with the Our Father. Joseph would have handed on his trade to his son, who later would die on the wood of a cross. Jesus had a great concern for the poor and the marginalized. In the home of Nazareth he learned generosity and kindness. The home of Nazareth

reminds us that families have the responsibility of teaching their children the Faith and to model the virtues. Jesus had most excellent parents; Mary was without sin and Joseph is described as a just and prudent man. Parents today can learn from Joseph and Mary on how to teach their children.

## **A Call to Chastity**

The Catholic tradition upholds the belief that Mary remained ever-virgin. St. Joseph often is referred to as Mary's most chaste spouse, and in the Litany of St. Joseph is recognized as the chaste guardian of the Virgin. Perhaps this is yet another way the Holy Family provides an example to our modern world, often assaulted by sexual promiscuity and fleeting lustful thoughts. The chaste relationship of Joseph and Mary reminds all Christian faithful that, even in marriage, chastity is to be observed. The practice of natural family planning (NFP) is one way a couple observes chastity in their marriage. The fidelity of Joseph and Mary to each other also gives great example and encourages couples in their fidelity to one another, even in difficult circumstances. The chaste relationship between Joseph and Mary means they experienced intimacy in different ways through their common life together. Their purity of mind and heart of mutual love for each other and the Son of God is indeed worthy of imitation by all families.

## **Devotion to the Holy Family**

Devotion to the Holy Family of Nazareth emerges in times when the family becomes weakened because of political and societal pressures. In the medieval period, Jean Gerson, theologian at the Council of Constance (1414-18), encouraged devotion to the Holy Family, and Pope Leo XIII said that imitation of the Holy Family would be a means to revitalize and strengthen family life. In the third millennium the institution of the family once again

suffers attacks politically and socially. Perhaps now is the time for us to knock on the door of the Holy Family's home in Nazareth and move from being an onlooker peering into a guest in their home. From them we will learn many virtues for Christian family life and, through their inspiration, to practice them in our homes and among our own families.

*Fr. Looney is a priest of the diocese of Green Bay, WI. Follow him on Twitter at [@FrEdwardLooney](https://twitter.com/FrEdwardLooney).*

#### KID FRIENDLY WORDING:

Saint Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. He was a very good and patient man. Even though he never speaks in the Bible, Saint Joseph was a man of action. When God told him in a dream that it was okay to marry Mary, and when God told him to go to Egypt to save Jesus from Herod, Saint Joseph listened. He always obeyed God even though he did not always understand.

Through his love and care for Jesus and Mary, Saint Joseph showed his love for God. Because he trusted God, Saint Joseph allowed Him to work in his life. Trusting God can be very hard, especially when we cannot see how our story will end or why God is asking us to do something. We can pray to Saint Joseph to help us trust God just as he did.

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When I was a young girl, God sent an angel named Gabriel to me and asked me to be the Mother of God. I said, yes! Because God chose me to be His mother, He gave me a very special gift. When I was created my soul was perfectly clean and sparkly without sin. Everyone else needs to be baptized to clean their soul, but Jesus made my soul perfect from the start. The Church calls this The Immaculate Conception.