

Why did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church (see 2 Cor 6:16-18). In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved," as the First Reading puts it. The family advice we hear in today's readings - for mothers, fathers and children - is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, we sing in today's Psalm. But the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, to see how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth. Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called "his parents" and are referred to separately as his "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their "familial" ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God. In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose (see Eph. 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Lk 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 3:3-6; 10:21). In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God. Until He reveals His new dwelling among us, and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son" (see Rev. 21:3,7). ( By Dr Scott Hahn).



Dear Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Holy Family of Nazareth, today we turn to you our gaze with admiration and confidence; in you we contemplate the beauty of communion in true love; to you we commend our families, so that in them wonders of your grace be renewed. Holy Family of Nazareth with joy we entrust ourselves and all families to you. Amen.



**Each family should be holy**

## St Michael's Catholic Church

29 Banks Ave, Daceyville, NSW 2032  
 Parish Priest Fr. Jerzy Chrzczonowicz  
 Mob: 0411 125 357 [jerzy1junior@hotmail.com](mailto:jerzy1junior@hotmail.com)  
 Visiting Retired Priest: Fr. Anthony Simari  
 Tel: 93491292 Fax: 93140760  
 Email: [angelsville@bigpond.com](mailto:angelsville@bigpond.com)  
 Website: [www.stmichaeldaceyville.org.au](http://www.stmichaeldaceyville.org.au)  
 Mrs. Allana Vedder, School Principal  
[www.stmdaceyville.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmdaceyville.catholic.edu.au)  
 CHILDREN's web: Google, EWTNKIDS  
 Deepen your faith-find answers on  
 Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.  
[www.vocationcentre.org.au](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au)



**On the road to exile**

**28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2014 (B)**

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** St Luke 2:22-40

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 cents of each \$2.



### **WEEKEND MASS TIMES:**

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

### **WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

**HOLY HOUR:** Wed: 5pm

### **RECONCILIATION:**

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

### **BAPTISMS:**

Sundays 9:30am Mass

### **BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME & WEDDINGS:**

By appointment

### **ANOINTING MASS:**

Quarterly: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

### **1<sup>ST</sup> SAT OF EACH MONTH:**

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

### **PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:**

**100%** tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

### **FAITH FORMATION:**

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Sun 9:30am:** †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

**Mon:** †Aloysius & Anthony Chong

**Tue:** Archinal, McShane & Osboldstone Families

**OUR SICK:** Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant and Minerva Alimario...

**Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – accommodation is available now! For futher details please call the Manager Joe de Andrade on 0438696396 or Parish Office on 93491292.**

**Happy Birthday to: John Spora (3<sup>rd</sup>)**

**\*New Year’s Eve: Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 5pm: Holy Hour 6pm: Mass  
**\* New Year/Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: Thu 1<sup>st</sup> Jan7:30am Mass**

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** Your kind gifts will go to the Central Fund that attends to the needs of the priests and bishops of the Archdiocese. We are grateful for your generosity.

**Fertility Educators Needed.** Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in the Greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. The 2015 Training will commence in February 2015. For more information and application forms please contact:-The Manager NFS (02) 9390 5156. **Closing date: 31 December 2014.**

**Campion College Summer Program, 11 – 16 January 2015.** There are many ways to obtain more details of this live-in experience. Web: [www.campion.edu.au](http://www.campion.edu.au) or [m.mendieta@campion.edu.au](mailto:m.mendieta@campion.edu.au) or [info@campion.edu.au](mailto:info@campion.edu.au) or Tel: (02) 9896 9300 .

**Sign Language Classes conducted by the Ephpheta Centre, the Catholic Centre for the Deaf:** Course will begin soon in a central location in the Sydney Archdiocese. For more info., please contact Nicole Clark on 9708 1396 / 0438 201 707.

Need a great Valentines present? Surprise your spouse with a weekend away from the hustle of life by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.** You will rejuvenate your relationship to be better than ever. **6-8 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW To apply contact 02 4283 3435 or [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au).**

**This weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) F & G Hogan (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) P Chen, L Hart (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) S Pedisich, K Wong (C) A Burton (M)  
**5.00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) M Butler, V Hage (R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) G Guerrero, F De Andrade (R) A Burke, M Wells (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) A Burton (M)  
**5.00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** G Hogan

**The "Domestic Church"** *“Believe in the Lord Jesus [Paul said], and you will be saved, you and your household... and he was baptized at once with all of his family... and he rejoiced with all his household that he believed in God.” (Acts 16:32-34)* Here, as in the story of St Peter with Cornelius’s household in Acts chapter 10, we see that living and proclaiming the gospel in and through the family has always been a part of our Christian tradition. With this in mind, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council presented again the idea of the family as the “domestic church” – the body of Christ in the home (*Lunem Gentium #11*). In both his Letter to Families and in the Apostolic Exhortation, *The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World (Famillaris Consortio)*, Pope JP II emphasised the importance of the family both to the vitality of the Church and the good of society. *“The family, which is founded and given life by love, is a community of persons: of husband and wife, of parents and children, of relatives... [The family’s] inner principle is love. Without love the family cannot live, grow and perfect itself... without love man remains incomprehensible to himself, his life is senseless if love is not revealed in him” (FC #18)*



It is through the family that each of us learns of love. To the extent that the family - that “school of love” as JP II also called it - is broken down, so too is the natural means by which we come experience and understand love. Without that environment in which we experience and practice love, we can never truly understand or be ourselves. Whatever undermines the family therefore, hurts its members and indeed, undermines our whole society.

**FAMILY AND LOVE MUST BE CULTIVATED LIKE A GARDEN.  
TIME, EFFORT, AND IMAGINATION MUST BE SUMMONED  
CONSTANTLY TO KEEP ANY RELATIONSHIP FLOURISHING AND  
GROWING.**

In her love for the whole “family of humanity” the Catholic Church seeks to support and encourage every family, in every time and place, to become what it was intended to be from the beginning - a community of life and love. To the extent that each of us open ourselves within our own “domestic church” to life and to love, we becomes like the Holy Family of Nazareth, a family through which the light of Jesus Christ becomes a real presence in the world.