

Our True Home: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 | Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21 | Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



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 Corinthians 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 Ephesians 3:15). The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling (see Luke 19:46). But it's also an image of the family of God, the Church (see Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 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 Revelation 21:3,7).

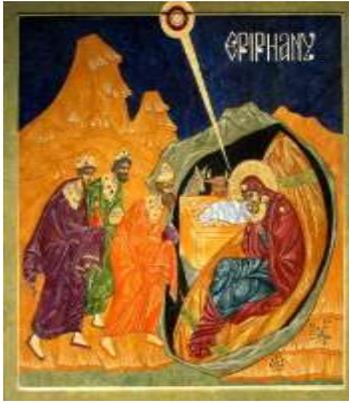
ANNOUNCED MASSES
January 6th -14th, 2018

Saturday 10:00 a.m.	Jan. 6th	Weekday Thanksgiving and Blessings – by Ana Gabuat and Children
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 6th	Sunday Vigil (Epiphany) Helen Annett – RIP – by Pauline Butkus
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 7th	Epiphany Sunday Gloria David – RIP – by Julia Father Russel Schultz & Deceased Members of Our Lady of Fatima Choir – RIP – by the Choir
Monday	Jan. 8th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Jan. 9th	Weekday Continuous Blessings – by Betty
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 10th	Weekday Justino Dalisay – RIP – by the Dalisay family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 11th	Weekday Gisele Boisvert – RIP – by the Hebert family
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 12th	Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Deceased and Living Members of the Rodrigues family – by Leo and Lavinia
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Jan. 13th	Sunday Vigil Raymond Tait – RIP – by the Piper family
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jan. 14th	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Rita and Pietro Mosca – RIP – by the family Feliks Rewers – RIP – by Wanda Rewers

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

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December 24, 2017 - **\$2,386.05**
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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD: January 7



Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. For centuries we as Catholics celebrated this Feast on Jan. 6, but the decision was made a number of years ago to celebrate the Epiphany on the Sunday which falls between Jan. 2 and Jan. 8.

“Epiphany” means “manifestation.” It is on this day that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is revealed as the light of all nations. Officially Christmas is not over. In fact, the recommendation of the Church is that on this day those who display a crèche, a nativity or manger scene, should replace the shepherd and sheep with the Magi and their likely animals on which they traveled as well as their gifts. However, that is all secondary to the real meaning of this day.

At Christmas the Messiah Jesus was revealed to the shepherds, who were Jewish. But on this day the Lord is revealed to all nations and to the Gentiles (represented by the Magi). We are all familiar with the star the Magi followed, but we need to understand all that is happening and what it means. This all represents the Light of Christ, a Light which today we honor and commemorate. We are called to be the Light of Christ right now to those around us and those with whom we come in contact. That way we can be the disciples Christ wants us to be.

The poet William Cullen Bryant captures the significance of the star the Magi followed very well when he wrote, “O Father, may that Holy Star, Grow every year more bright, And send its glorious beams afar, To fill the world with light.” – (Copyright 2017 www.thecatholicsteward.com)

SAINT MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS: January 12



Marguerite is often referred to as the ‘Mother of the Colony’ for her contributions to the establishment of Ville-Marie, the place we know today as Montreal.

Born in France in 1620, Marguerite crossed the Atlantic in 1653 to join in the colonizing efforts begun by Monsieur de Maisonneuve. Her mandate was to develop educational opportunities for aboriginal children and for the families of the French settlers in Ville-Marie.

Marguerite received the help of Jeanne Mance, founder of the Hotel-Dieu Hospital. Other women joined her and the group formed an institute of uncloistered sisters, the Congregation Notre-Dame. Marguerite and her companions took on many roles, including teaching, introducing vocational courses for youth and assisting couples preparing for marriage. She resisted Church pressure to change her community to a cloistered one and lived to see her order’s rule confirmed in 1698.

Marguerite was well-loved. She died in 1700 at the age of 80 and was declared a saint on October 31, 1982. In 1997, archaeologists uncovered the foundation of the chapel Marguerite built in Ville-Marie in 325 years earlier. Marguerite is a patron saint of poor people. - *Living with Christ, January 2018*