

OCTOBER

Because God rested on the seventh day, we want to celebrate Sunday together as a family

Sunday is the day of the Lord in which we remember and give thanks for the work of creation, his gift of the Holy Spirit, and the joy of our faith.

Celebrating the sacredness of this holy day each week together as a family strengthens each of us in our vocation to holiness.

Meditation

From Pope Benedict XVI's Angelus address given on Dec. 31, 2006.

In the Gospel we do not find discourses on the family but an event which is worth more than any words: God wanted to be born and to grow up in a human family. ...

When he was 12 years old, he stayed behind in the temple and it took his parents all of three days to find him. With this act he made them understand that he "had to see to his Father's affairs," in other words, to the mission that God had entrusted to him.

This Gospel episode reveals the most authentic and profound vocation of the family: that is, to accompany each of its members on the path of the discovery of God and of the plan that he has prepared for him or her.

Mary and Joseph taught Jesus primarily by their example: In his parents he came to know the full beauty of faith, of love for God and for his Law, as well as the demands of justice, which is totally fulfilled in love. ...

The Holy Family of Nazareth is truly the "prototype" of every Christian family which, united in the sacrament of marriage and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, is called to carry out the wonderful vocation and mission of being the living cell not only of society but also of the Church, a sign and instrument of unity for the entire human race.

1. What does it mean to me to see the rest of the family pray or attend Mass with me?
2. Why might God want me to be a part of this particular family, giving me these people to love and care for?
3. How can I help my friends and family members discover God's plan for them? How might they help me do the same?

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Family Project

Sunday is a special day, a "mini-Easter" during which we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.

Make the day special by sharing a special meal as a family. You might also consider planning a Sunday trip to visit an adoration chapel to spend time together as a family adoring God, truly present to us in the Eucharist.

Scripture Reading of the Month

Psalm 128: 1-6

Happiness comes to families who follow the Lord

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and who walk in his ways.
What your hands provide you will enjoy;
you will be blessed and prosper:
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your home,
Your children like young olive plants
around your table.
Just so will the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.

May the LORD bless you from Zion;
may you see Jerusalem's prosperity
all the days of your life,
and live to see your children's children.
Peace upon Israel!