

Feast of Holy Family – Year A

So – how was your Christmas? Was it everything you expected?

We just drove back from my family's Christmas celebration on Long Island
Brothers Sisters Nephews Aunts Uncles In Laws

& Three dogs

HOW MANY OF YOU HERE HAVE DOGS?

HOW MANY DOGS ATE SOMETHING UNEXPECTEDLY

One of my favorite part of Christmas was THE Stories – family stories –
My Father Eating 5lbs of bananas

Each of us has family traditions

Jesus' family did too – BUT LISTEN TO HIS EXPERIENCE OF THIS FAMILY

- Together they have lived through
 - o the birth – angels, shepherds, Magi
 - o Because of a dream – exile into Egypt – life of a refugee
 - o Joseph gets ANOTHER dream and they return
 - Settle into a quiet peaceful family life in Nazareth
 - Imagine the stories they told at holiday meals!*

But life goes on for the Holy Family:

- Joseph goes to work every day
- Mary lugs water every day, goes to the market, laundry, cooking, housework
- At Dinner each night
 - Talk about what happened at work – at school
 - News of the neighborhood
 - Romans and Taxes (Jesus' childhood – a refugee, or in occupied land)

Reality of the Day to Day issues of life

- BUT IT'S IN THE LOVE ROUND THAT TABLE THAT JESUS GROWS UP
- Look at the fruit of that family experience –
 - As an adult he meets a CENTURION – heal my servant **& He does** (no revenge)
He encounters what most would consider an enemy – and loves them.
 - *How we live at home – in our families – reflects how we live outside*
 - o Our children see us at dinner, they watch us drive ...
 - They see us dealing with one another's quirks and foibles
 - They see us laughing, arguing, working out life's problems
 - What do they see in YOUR house?
 - Our families are also 'Holy Families' – little churches
 - 2nd reading said PUT ON LOVE, THE BOND OF PERFECTION, AND LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST CONTROL YOUR HEART
 - o What if we made that our New Year's resolution?
 - To be bound together by love
 - My sons are grown and on their own – one of them said to me
'Every now and then I say or do something and its YOU – I've become my Father'
THAT'S A SCARY THOUGHT – but it shouldn't be.
As parents - are we so confident in who we are that if our children become us, its OK
This is the Feast of the Holy Family – not only Joseph, Mary and Jesus –
OUR Families are holy too – if we are bound together in love.