

December 26th 2021 Feast of the Holy Family – Year C – Luke 2: 41 – 52

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor...

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do)</p>
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This weeks gospel is both an ordinary and extraordinary family story. When Jesus goes missing and causes panic with his parents. I am sure most of us have experienced this panic – one minute can feel like an hour. Jesus' parents did not understand what he meant by `my fathers affairs`. Mary as always stored up `all these things` in her heart, accepting the mysterious workings of God. Jesus comes back into the family fold to continue living under his parents direction. Mary notes her child is growing, changing, preparing to fulfil his mission. This is the beginning of her painful journey and necessary process of letting him go.

How do we react when we feel we have lost our children? As parents do we see the God given dignity of each one of our children? Do we help them on their journey rather than dictate it?

Prayer:

Lord we thank you for the gift of our children and all young people who keep us alert by their energy and life.

Forgive us Lord for the times when we try to put our rules and regulations on our children without listening to their point of view and coming to a better understanding of that frequently asked question, why?

Help us Lord to be like Mary always standing by her son. We ask her to place her mantle around all the members of our families on this wonderful feast of The Holy Family.

