

# Family Page



To celebrate the feast of the Holy Family in conjunction with Christmas, plan a small family party when you can all work together on thank-you notes to relatives and friends. Someone in the family can bake a cake or cookies and make hot cocoa.

Open your celebration with a prayer of appreciation to the Holy Family. Thank God for giving you Mary and Joseph to guide you as a family.

Now you are ready to begin work on your thank-you notes. You will need old Christmas cards, construction paper, scissors, paste, and colored pens.

You can decorate your cards with the old Christmas cards or, if you prefer, you can make construction paper cutouts of different colors and shapes.

On each card, write a brief note saying how much the person's gift was appreciated. Parents will have to write this note for small children, but the wording and card design should come from the child.

When all the notes are finished, celebrate your family as you share your special dessert.



Written by Francine M. O'Connor.  
Art by Chris Sharp. © 2021 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Imprimatur: Most Rev. Robert J. Hermann, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Printed in USA. All rights reserved. It is a violation of copyright law to reproduce all or part of this material without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Liguori.org

Answer to CRYPTO message:  
BECAUSE JESUS IS GOD'S SON



# explaining GOD'S WORD

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (C) • Luke 2:41-52 • December 26, 2021



**Color this picture.**

Mary and Joseph and Jesus were a loving family. They are called the Holy Family. Color this picture of the Holy Family in the Temple at Jerusalem. Then read today's story about what happened to them on their way home from their trip.



# The Holy Family

In this week's gospel story, the Holy Family went to Jerusalem with their relatives and friends. It was quite a long trip. They walked and walked for days. On the way home, Mary thought Jesus was with Joseph, and Joseph thought Jesus was with Mary. When they discovered that he was not with either of them, they became very worried. They asked everyone, but no one had seen Jesus since they left Jerusalem.

Mary and Joseph went back to the city, searching everywhere for Jesus. After three days, they found him. He was in the Temple, talking with the teachers. Mary scolded Jesus for worrying them. Then Jesus said, "Didn't you know that I'd be in my Father's house?" Jesus didn't mean to worry Mary. He thought she would know where he would be. But Mary and Joseph were afraid that something had happened to him.



Have you ever come home late from school or gone somewhere without permission? Were your parents upset when you got home? Of course they were! That's because they love you — just like Mary and Joseph loved Jesus. This week, think extra hard about Joseph and Mary's love for Jesus and your parents' love for you.

## crypto message



Mary found Jesus in the Temple where the people went to worship God. Why did Jesus tell Mary that he was in his "Father's house"? Decode the message below to get the answer.

Y V X Z F H V Q V H F H  
R H T L W H H L M

Code key:

F = U	Q = J	W = D
H = S	R = I	X = C
L = O	T = G	Y = B
M = N	V = E	Z = A