



Immaculate Conception  
Church

## Homily for the Feast of the Holy Family

Year A 2014

---

Someone once described the Christmas Season as standing before a great painting that was so detailed and so encompassing that one had to spend a great deal of time looking at it and reflecting on it in order to grasp the full breadth of the event portrayed.

This Feast of the Holy Family is a part, a piece, of that great painting that basks in the light of Christmas and which expands the theme of the birth of Jesus Christ. On this feast we are called to learn a very important lesson and a very simple truth.

The lesson and the truth is that always and everywhere we are called to honor and venerate, cherish and love, forgive and support the members of our family. We are called to realize that these very precious people who are our parents and our grandparents, our spouses and our children, our in-laws and our cousins are the locus in which God acts within our lives. For they are the people who teach us what loving and caring, forgiving and learning are all about.

The readings today tell us that the relationships of family are important. The readings tell us that respect, love, forgiveness, patience and kindness are what make up the fabric of our family life. And the readings even suggest that families run into problems, children get lost, parents fret and that sometimes we need to take the time to search and once again find each other.

But all these readings are theory. On this Feast we are called to realize that it is not the theory on the page but the practice of it in our lives that makes a difference. May all of us who celebrate this Feast of the Holy Family promise ourselves that what we proclaim today will not just be theory. Rather we will put it into practice because once again we have been reminded that life is fragile and love is the only thing that is important. And no where is that life and love more important than within our families that are God's gift to each of us.