

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Catholic Climate Covenant™  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

## Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of the Holy Family, Cycle C (December 29, 2024)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**1 Samuel 1:** Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the Lord and to remain there forever.

**Psalm 84:** Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

**1 John 3:** See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are.

**Luke 2:** And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

#### † Comments for the Day:

A common theme in most Christmas songs is being home for the holidays, albeit an idealized version of "home": where the heart is, where family and friends gather, and where one can find the warmth and comfort of close intimacy and safety. A loving home is indeed a place of sanctuary, where we find the peace and support we need from our family; a place we return to later in life to revive ourselves and seek a bit of pampering.

Hannah knew that Samuel, the child she so longed for, belonged in the temple of the Lord where he would be consecrated to the service of God for all his days. He would remain in the temple which would become his home, and where he would grow in wisdom and age and favor.

Mary and Joseph found the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple of the Lord after searching for three long and arduous days. But this young Jesus explained to them that the temple is where he belonged, where he found his purpose and his peace.

While the concept of a warm and loving home brings great comfort to some, it conversely agitates others into a state of fear and trauma. Unfortunately, for some, the experience of family and home brings only sad and, in some cases, horrifying memories due to encounters involving abuse, neglect, indifference, and abandonment. Regrettably, we can say the same about our common home, our planet. Through abuse and exploitation, we have deeply wounded the earth itself as well as its Creator.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

Consequently, the home provided for us by God suffers greatly. Hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters coupled with the extremely unnatural disasters of indifference and hatred toward our fellow human beings, as well as individualism, avarice and seeking to satisfy our inner desert by accumulating material items rather than sharing the good gifts God created for all; all this detracts greatly from the mission entrusted to us, to be one family in harmony and peace.

The grace of this season, however, has the power to turn us around and move our hearts towards a transformation of spirit and allow our hearts to move away from violence and turn toward reconciliation and hope.

This transformation is possible if we support each other in the process and allow for true honesty and love. Instead of objectifying people and things, seeing other human beings and the environment itself as a means for accommodating our own needs, all of us are invited to recognize and treasure all life around us as our brother and sister. In this way we can progressively come to recognize and experience the world around us as a place of safety and intimacy, the cosmic temple of the Lord, our home, and everyone is a member of our family.

#### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

“*Laudato si', mi' Signore*” In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. (1)

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. (2)

These situations have caused sister earth, along with all the abandoned of our world, to cry out, pleading that we take another course. Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. (53)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That all our homes may be places of love and welcome, where everyone's voice is heard and respected, let us pray to the Lord.

**Option 2:** That all children may grow up in places of respect and safety, in loving homes and a healthy environment, let us pray to the Lord.

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

*Visit our webpage and sign up to receive these resources delivered to your email inbox each month.*