Integral Faith

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

Catholic Climate Covenant
Together for our Common Home

Homily Helps and Petitions for the Feast of the Holy Family, Cycle B (December 27, 2026)

Homily Helps

† **Scripture Passages to Note:**

Psalm 105: Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds. Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

Colossians 3: And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

† **Comments for the Day:**

There is a secret ingredient to family life.

It fills one's family life with joy and abundance. It can bring new life where things feel broken. It can transform daily fare into a banquet and an ordinary day into an occasion of God's grandeur. The secret ingredient to family life is gratitude, the act of recognizing the gifts that surround us and giving thanks.

The drudgery of the daily grind can be transformed by reflecting on the simple question: what am I grateful for today? What am I grateful for in my husband, wife, or children. This simple practice reveals the abundance in the *here*, *now*, and *this* of our lives. Practicing gratitude not only transforms our family life but also the way we see the world and God. The Holy Family offers all families a model for holiness, as they fully acknowledge and celebrate God's activity in their midst.

It should be no surprise that gratitude lies at the heart of the spiritual life and ecological spirituality. The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life and the sum and summary of our faith. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek term *eucharistia*, which means "thanksgiving." Each time we gather for the Eucharist, we become attuned to God's activity in our midst and give thanks to God in a solemn and profound way.

One could argue that our spiritual lives can be summed up as the patterning of our lives around two simple questions: 1) Where is God in this? And what is God's gift in this? The secret ingredient to spiritual life is gratitude.

When we seek to become aware of God's presence and activity around us, we soon discover the abundance of life promised in Christ. The world (and all in it), in the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, is charged with the grandeur of God.

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

"To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope." This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since "for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice" (85).

This conversion calls for a number of attitudes which together foster a spirit of generous care, full of tenderness. First, it entails gratitude and gratuitousness, a recognition that the world is God's loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity…(220).

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we may continue to grow as a worldwide family, united in a common concern for the gift of creation, attentive to the cry of the poor and of the planet, let us pray to the Lord …

Option 2: That the whole human family may learn to live in peace, striving to break down the barriers of prejudice and intolerance and building up a fellowship of love, let us pray to the Lord..

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage:
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