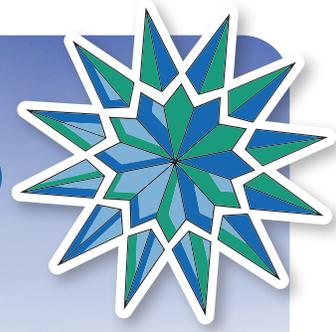


ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL



Love God • Serve Others • Form Disciples

**December 27 & December 28, 2025;
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Deacon Ed's Homily

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

With the holidays and spending time with families ... possibly too much time with our families ... some of us may be thinking that our families are a bit too much. We can possibly see ourselves as written into Clark Griswald's holiday classic movie Christmas Vacation. The movie follows Clark's persistent attempt to create the "perfect family Christmas." I think we all have a "Cousin Eddie" in our family ... someone we love in small doses ... but Holy Smokes! Sometimes they can be a challenge to truly love!

But families are complicated ... every family is complicated. Even the Holy Family — Jesus, Mary and Joseph — they lived a complicated life with stress... and fear ... and uncertainty. They were holy because, in the middle of it all, they kept choosing love.

And that's exactly what St. Paul is talking about in his letter to the Colossians today. He tells us to "Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience... and over all these, put on love."

And with that phrase "put on", Paul is acknowledging that these positive qualities don't necessarily come to us naturally. We have to choose to put them on ... we have to wear them... we have to slip them on like a warm, oversized sweater when we are trying to love the "Cousin Eddie" of our family.

Think about the different families in our parish today. Some families are close knit. Some families are blended. Some families are separated by geographical distance or divorce. Some families are grieving the loss of someone they love. Some families are carrying wounds ... or trying to rebuild trust. Some families are just trying to make it through the week.

And into all of these different families, Paul says: "Put on compassion." Because every person in our family has a hidden story we don't fully know. Compassion lets us see their heart, not just their actions.

We are called to "Put on kindness." Because sometimes the smallest act of kindness can break through family tensions.

To "Put on humility." Because maybe we don't have the whole picture and we need be humble.

To "Put on gentleness." Because being rough or harsh never heals division.

To “Put on patience.” To pause and take a breath... because relationships mend slowly.

And then Paul gives us truly the hardest virtue: “to forgive one another.” Because forgiveness is the only way family relationships can move forward.

When we look at the Holy Family, their holiness was about their commitment to each another and their commitment to God. It was about always choosing love.

And that’s the invitation for us. Maybe there’s a family member who needs our patience. Maybe someone who needs our gentleness. Maybe someone needs our compassion. Maybe someone needs our forgiveness — or maybe we need to be forgiven.

The Holy Family shows us that God works through ordinary people ... God works through US ... when we choose love.

May it be our prayer during this Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.. that we choose to “put on” the virtues that Paul gives us — slip on that sweater, however imperfect, and with love build up our family relationships ... especially with our Cousin Eddie.

