

**Kids Column**

Lk.2:22-40

*The Holy Family*

When we talk about the Holy Family we are talking about Jesus and his mother Mary and his foster-father, Saint Joseph. Mary became the mother of Jesus when she was betrothed (formally engaged) to St. Joseph, and Jesus' real father was God the Father Himself. So Saint Joseph acted as the Father of Jesus on earth.



Saint Joseph was a carpenter and worked hard to provide for his family. Mary loved Jesus and Joseph and cooked and cleaned for them. When Jesus was old enough Saint Joseph trained Him to be a carpenter as well. Because they all loved each other with generosity and selflessness they were really the happiest and holiest family that ever lived.

We can imitate the Holy Family by loving our parents and siblings and putting others before ourselves. What can you do today to make your family happier and holier?



[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of every month. Please contact the Parish Office at least **6 weeks** before the date.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

Couples should contact the Parish Office to make arrangements at least **6 months** before the desired date.

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Intentions must be booked at least by the Wednesday, one week before the desired date.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

♦ Mass Times for the rest of the Season are as follows:

**Sunday December 31st:**

Gros Islet – **One Mass Only** at 8:00 a.m.  
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.  
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.

**New Year's Eve** - December 31st - 9:00 p.m.

**New Year's Day** - January 1st:

Gros Islet - 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.  
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday Masses remain as usual.**

♦ After many years of service in the Lord's vineyard, the Clergy of the Archdiocese deserve a proper home for their retirement. The Archdiocese is in the process of refurbishing the St. Benedict's Presbytery at the Morne for that purpose. Beginning 2024, a Special Collection will be taken at all New Year's Masses in the Archdiocese, to go towards a Retirement Fund for the maintenance of the Home and the care of the residing Clergy. Special envelopes will be distributed for the collection. Parishioners can also pledge donations towards that fund by direct bank transfer or submissions at the parish in properly labeled envelopes. Information about the Retirement Home can be found on [www.aocslu.org](http://www.aocslu.org) or the Archdiocesan Facebook Page: Archdiocese of Castries.

*Happy New Year*

Praying God gives you a

**YEAR OF FAVOR**

FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...

Psalm 90:17



*St. Joseph the Worker Parish*  
Gros Islet, Grande Riviere & Monchy

**The Solemnity of the Holy Family - 31st December 2023 - Year B**

*Our True Home.*

**W**hy did Jesus choose to become a baby born of a mother and father and to spend all but His last years living in an ordinary human family? In part, to reveal God's plan to make all people live as one "holy family" in His Church.

In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, God reveals our true home. We're to live as His children, "chosen ones, holy and beloved". The family advice we hear in today's readings - for mothers, fathers, and children - is all solid and practical. Happy homes are the fruit of our faithfulness to the Lord, but the Liturgy is inviting us to see more, how, through our family obligations and relationships, our families become heralds of the family of God that He wants to create on earth.

Jesus shows us this in today's Gospel. His obedience to His earthly parents flows directly from His obedience to the will of His heavenly Father. Joseph and Mary aren't identified by name, but three times are called His "parents" and are referred to separately as His "mother" and "father." The emphasis is all on their familial ties to Jesus. But these ties are emphasized only so that Jesus, in the first words He speaks in Luke's Gospel, can point us beyond that earthly relationship to the Fatherhood of God.

In what Jesus calls "My Father's house," every family finds its true meaning and purpose. The Temple we read about in the Gospel today is God's house, His dwelling. But it is also an image of the family of God, the Church.

In our families we're to build up this household, this family, this living temple of God, until He reveals His new dwelling among us and says of every person: "I shall be his God and he will be My son".

(excerpt: stpaulcentre.com)

**SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading**  
Gen.15:1-6, 21:1-13

**Second Reading**  
Heb.11:8,11-12,  
17-19

**Gospel**  
Lk.2:22-40

**MASS TIMES**

Morning Prayers:  
5:45a.m.  
✠

**MONDAY: GROS ISLET**  
Mass: 6:00 a.m.  
12:30 p.m.  
✠

**TUESDAY: GROS ISLET**  
6:00 a.m.  
✠

**WEDNESDAY**  
6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.:  
**Gros Islet**  
6:00 p.m. **G/Riviere**  
✠

**THURSDAY**  
6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.:  
**Gros Islet**  
6:00 p.m.: **Monchy**  
✠

**FRIDAY**  
6:00 a.m./12:30 p.m.:  
**Gros Islet**  
✠

**SATURDAY**  
6:30 a.m./6:00 p.m.:  
**Gros Islet**  
✠

**SUNDAY**  
7:30 a.m.:  
**GROS ISLET/G. RIVIERE**  
10:00 a.m.:  
**Gros Islet/Monchy**  
✠

**HOLIDAY**  
Variable  
✠

**CONFESSIONS**

*Every Saturday*  
9.00 - 10.00a.m  
&  
*by appointment*

Parish Priests: Msgr. Michel Francis, Fr. Joseph X. Savarimuthu  
Deacons: Rev. Anthony Louis, Rev. David Popo  
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Facebook: [facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish](https://facebook.com/stjosephtheworkerparish)

**The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God - Jan 1st**

This feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title was dogmatically adopted to assert that Jesus is God, and that His mother can therefore be called Mother of God. This was the first specifically Marian doctrine to be formally defined by the Church early in the fifth century soon after the Church Fathers had confirmed the fact of Mary's virginity before, during and after giving birth.

In the fourth and fifth centuries, debates about the relationship of Christ's divine and human natures raged in the Church. At the center of this debate was one of the titles of Mary. Since at least the third century, Christians had referred to Mary as *theotokos*, meaning "God-bearer". The term "Mother of God" appears within the oldest known prayer to Mary, the *Sub tuum praesidium*, which dates to around 250 AD and states: "Under thy protection we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God". This is reflected in the following statement in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

*"From the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of 'Mother of God,' to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs."*

Objection to the title was raised, among others, by Patriarch Nestorius of Constantinople, who suggested that Mary was only the mother of Jesus' human nature, but not his divine nature. This was rejected by the Church and the definition Mother of God was formally affirmed at the Third Ecumenical Council held at Ephesus in 431 AD. The Church affirmed that Christ was fully God and fully human, and these natures were united in one divine person, Jesus Christ. Thus Mary could be called "Mother of God" since she gave birth to Jesus who was fully divine as well as human.

Scriptural basis for the dogma is found in John 1:14 which states "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us" and Galatians 4:4, "God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law". Luke 1:35 further affirms divine maternity by stating: *"The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee ... wherefore also the holy thing which is begotten shall be called the Son of God."*

The dogmatic constitution *Lumen Gentium* at the Second Vatican Council affirmed Mary as the Mother of God by stating: *"The Virgin Mary, who at the message of the angel received the Word of God in her heart and in her body and gave Life to the world, is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and Mother of the Redeemer."*

Thus, when we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human.

(excerpt: wikipedia.org)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Iris Macauldy  
Patsy Crafton  
Martha Mason  
Teresa Huntley

**DECEASED**

Cecil Graham  
Dorothy Daniel  
Marie M. Charles  
Ferdinand Gomez  
Msgr. Theo Joseph  
Elizabeth Clerville

**WEEKDAY READINGS**



**MONDAY**

Num.6:22-27  
Gal.4:4-7  
Lk.2:16-21



**TUESDAY**

1Jn.2:22-28  
Jn.1:19-28



**WEDNESDAY**

1Jn.2:29--3:6  
Jn.1:29-34



**THURSDAY**

1Jn.3:7-10  
Jn.1:35-42



**FRIDAY**

1Jn.3:11-21  
Jn.1:43-51



**SATURDAY**

1Jn.5:5-13  
Mk.1:6-11



MASS INTENTIONS		
GROS ISLET	CLERGY / RELIGIOUS	INTENTIONS
<b>THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY -YEAR B</b>		
Sat Dec 30 -6:00 p.m.	Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. <b>Psalm 105:1</b>	Thks: Felix Finistere Sandra Aimable & family
Sun Dec 31 -8:00 a.m. <i>Solemnity of the Holy Family</i>		Thks: John Andas & family
Grande Riviere - 7:30 a.m.		B'day: Richard Sayers Thks: Juliet Joseph & family Wedd Ann: Peter & Rosana Baptiste Richard & Sylvia Sayers
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.		12th Wedd Ann: Andrea & Cyprian Paul
Sun Dec 31 -9:00 p.m. <i>Vigil Mass</i>		MISSA PRO POPULO
<b>WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS</b>		
Mon Jan 1 - 7:30 a.m. <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	Fr. Ignatius Cetoute Fr. Cleophus Joseph Sr. Marie Therese Clement	Thks: Paula Theophilus & family Holy Spirit: Huntley & Wells families
10:00 a.m.		Thks: Edith Eudoxie B'day: Jacintha St. Helene, Earl Moona
Grande Riviere -7:30 a.m.		55th B'day: Millina Cox Int: Ike Blanchard & family
Monchy - 10:00 a.m.		Thks: Gene Norley & family
Tues Jan 2 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. Joseph Akande Fr. Celestine Nwakwuo	Dc'd: Kevin Haywood Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed Jan 3 - 6:00 a.m.	Msgr. Michel Francis Fr. Athanase Joseph Fr. Stephen Quinlan	Thks: Bernadette Pamphile & family
12:30 p.m.		Health & Grace: Teresa Huntley Int: Stennett Bent & family
Thu Jan 4 - 6:00 a.m. <i>St. Elizabeth Seton, Religious</i>	Fr. Arthur Zalewski Fr. Vinoth Santhappan	Int: Anthony Robinson Thks: Mary Sidoine & family
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Veronica Aurelien
Fri Jan 5 - 6:00 a.m.	Fr. John Wilson Fr. Joseph Raj Sr. Mary Lee Cox	Sp. Int: Jeanine Blanchard & family
12:30 p.m.		Dc'd: Cecil Graham
Sat Jan 6 - 6.30 a.m. <i>Mass at the Shrine</i>	Msgr. Patrick Anthony	Thks: Laurencia Matthew & family Vernette Brooks & family