

**FATHER MARK SCHULTE
HOMILY
CHRISTMAS
December 25, 2025**

“Faith and Family”

My Brothers and Sisters, Merry Christmas to you all. I would like to talk to you about two main topics at this time. The first topic is family life. Not so unusual during Christmas time when families tend to get together anyway. I would like to start by reflecting for a moment on the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, but going beyond the pleasant sentiment of the crib scene. In our society today there are many articles about how the human family is struggling, even to the point where children are killing their own mother and father. Jesus, Mary and Joseph had some pretty tough times in their family life too: Poverty, fleeing to a foreign country to escape threats on their life and so on.

We live in an age where we tend to take our families for granted. Please don't do that. We think that our families will always be around and we therefore tend to put off meeting with each other frequently. We should think of the ways that we take our family members for granted, Mom, Dad, kids, grandparents, even extended family.

Try to be a face-to-face family, not just a cell phone-to-cell phone family. Be close enough to touch each other physically when you communicate.

Is there someone in my family that I am avoiding for some reason? Is there someone in my family that I need to apologize to? Say, “I'm sorry” to? Peter denied that he knew Jesus and he regretted it terribly and was unable to tell Jesus that he was sorry. Also, who is that family member that you need to make time to visit? They might even live in the same town yet seem to be ignored.

Your presence is the best gift that you can give to your family. I'm not talking about T.V. time together or even at some school activity time. Instead give your whole family your presence especially on Sunday at Holy Mass. The time will eventually come when your family members are the last people that you can turn to. So strengthen those family bonds.

The second topic I want to address is your Catholic faith. Make it your goal this year to learn more about your Catholic faith. For most Christians in our country their faith is a mish-mash of different Christian belief systems. A little of this from this Christian denomination and a little of that from the other denomination. I am talking about learning your Catholic faith, that faith that Jesus gave to His apostles, His Church, 2000 years ago, and which His apostles continued to pass on through the ages. The prophet Hosea said: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). Hosea wasn't talking about mathematics, spelling, or scientific knowledge. He was referring to the knowledge of their faith in God, and the willingness to be obedient to Him. To this end read your bible and Catholic Catechism every day for a few

minutes. Read the Lives of the Saints as well. If you don't like to read, then there are many good podcasts on the Catholic faith! Pull up one and it will lead to another.

After Mass today take your whole family up to the crib scene and pray that the Holy Family will guide your family through this next year. Keep a small crib scene in your house the whole year round. Make a commitment to pray together as a family, especially at Holy Mass and the Holy Rosary.

Faith and family, two very important topics to work on in the coming year.

Merry Christmas!