

HOMILY
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
December 28, 2025

A couple of years ago I was hearing the First Reconciliation of second graders. When the kids come up to me individually, I talk to them just a couple of minutes to make them feel more comfortable before I start the Confession. That year it was relatively quick after Christmas so I asked each one of the kids “What was your favorite part of Christmas?” I expected them to say the favorite gift they got, like legos or a tablet; or the Christmas tree, the lights and decorations; or the sweets and the Christmas cookies. You know what 95% of the kids told me? Spending time with my family. A couple of kids told me that they went to Disney World. When I asked them what was their favorite part of Disney World they told me spending time with my family. You young parents. You spent all of that time and money preparing for Christmas and what you children really want for Christmas is to spend time with you. You can do that for free. Certainly young children need many things from their parents and from their families, but do not forget how important quality time is with your kids.

This past week we celebrated Christmas. We celebrated Jesus being born into our lives in a new way. Jesus is born into our Parish Family. I want to talk a little bit about our Parish Family. Just as our second graders taught me, I think one of the most important things about our Parish Family is to spend time with family. This is a family

where we celebrate the sacraments, pray and give glory and praise to God. We are all followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus is present here, and where Jesus is present, people change, they improve. Where Jesus is present, people have a greater capacity for love, peace and reconciliation. I can feel it when I am here. The atmosphere is just different. Here at St. Edith we make a real effort to welcome everyone in a non-judgmental way. This is a place where everyone can belong. The famous psychologist, Abraham Maslow reports that human beings have a fundamental need for a place where they belong. Our St. Edith Family can be that place for anyone who wants to belong. St. Edith is a place where we can be loved and accepted without being judged. Our Family is a place where young and old can learn to respect each other. It is a place where young parents can be loved and supported for bringing their children to church and raising them in the faith. It is a place where we can learn to deal with our differences in a safe environment. It is a place where we can be proud to be Catholic. It is a place where we can share our gifts. It is a place where we can connect with acquaintances and form deep lasting friendships if that is what we want and need. Each Parish Family is different. I hope you all feel comfortable here. I feel blessed to be part of our St. Edith Family. My favorite part is spending time with our family.