

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, December 26, 2021**

**SUNDAY IS FAMILY-DAY**



On the Sunday after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. We continue to celebrate the mystery of Christmas, opening up our contemplative horizon a bit more. Sunday and Christmas: are two realities to take into consideration in this Feast of the Holy Family.

Sunday, the Lord's Day, is the primary reason that brings us together to celebrate the Eucharist. Sunday is the "family day", because it is the "day of the Lord", the

"day of the man", the "day of the Church", as St. John Paul II told us in the Apostolic Letter "Dies Domini".

In the context of Christmas, this feast invites us to take a look at the Family of Jesus which becomes Holy. From this Family, we receive the familial warmth that we feel during the Christmas season. The Feast of the Holy Family is a perfect opportunity to reflect on our families and on the importance of family. We reflect on the family, celebrating the mystery of Christmas: The Son of God became man, within a family, a people, a country.

The Holy Family gives us a model of life. Therefore, we ask in the Collect Prayer of this Feast that, "we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards".

Wishing you a continued merry and blessed Christmas, I am yours in service,

Father John Carlos