

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph  
26 December 2021 - Year C

**“Take the child and his mother,  
and flee to Egypt.”**

### Something to Think About

Our families love us and take care of us.

What are some things that you and your family like to do together?

Today is the feast of the Holy Family. Do you know who the 3 members of the Holy Family are?

### The Story

In today's gospel story, Joseph is the main character.

After Jesus was born, Joseph needed to act quickly to protect his family. An angel told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus far away from King Herod to keep them safe. Joseph followed the angel's instructions and took Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Joseph only took his family home after he was told in another dream that it was safe.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

**2:13-15, 19-23**

An angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

The angel said, "Get up!

Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."

That night Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt."

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead."

Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth.

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video.

[Escape to Egypt](#)



## Group Discussion

Joseph trusted in God and followed the angel's directions. He had faith that God would help him to keep Mary and Jesus safe. How do you think Joseph would have felt, knowing that a powerful king was trying to kill his new baby?

How do your parents protect you and keep you safe? Think of a way to say thank you to your parents for all they do to look after you.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader:* We pray for all Christians throughout the world, Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for people who work for justice and peace. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for people who are far away from their family. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray that God will bless our own families in a special way. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Lord God,  
May our homes be filled with love, joy  
and peace.  
Bless our families during the holidays  
and keep us safe.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

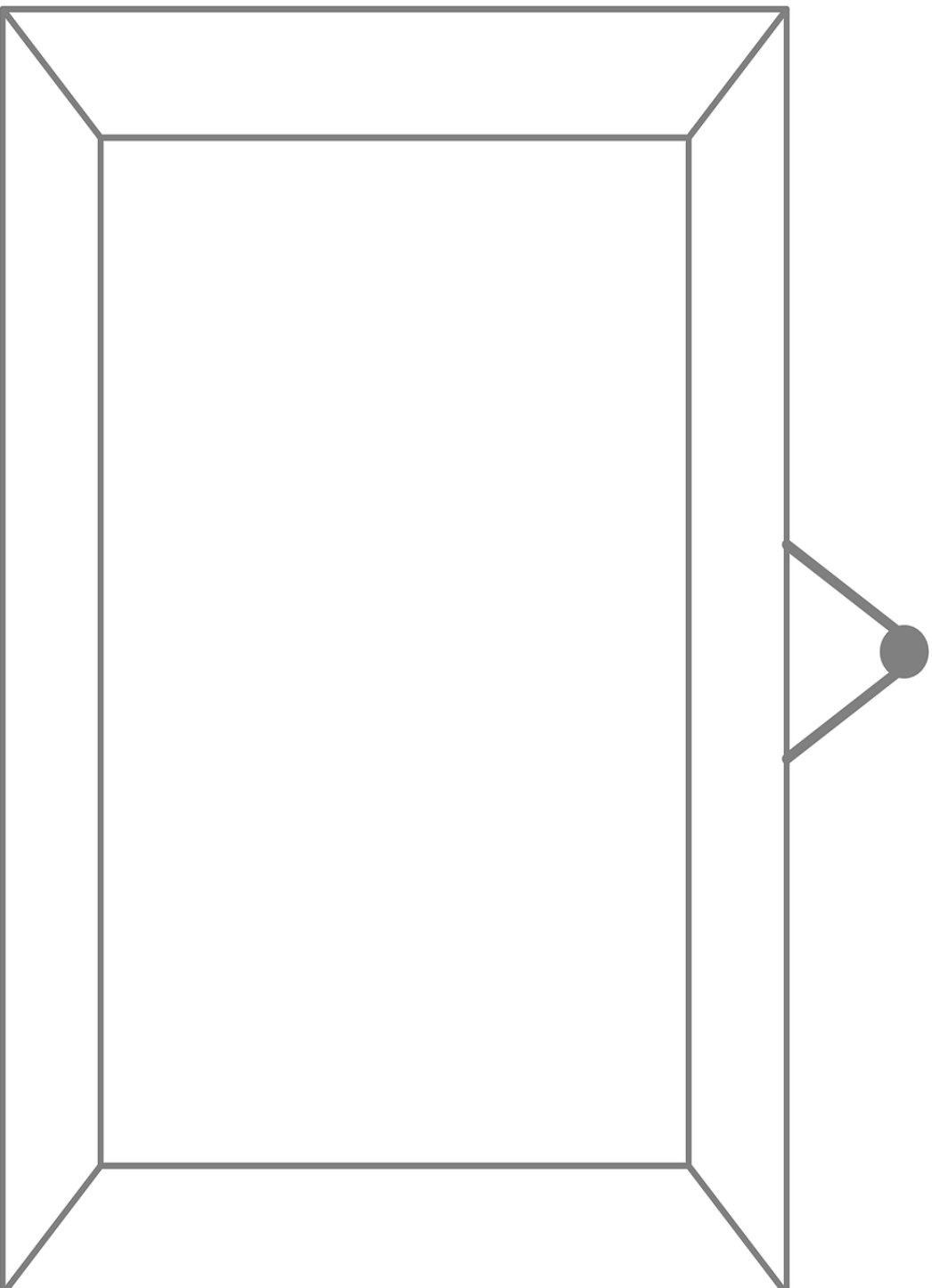
### MY FAMILY PORTRAIT

*You will need: a picture frame template for each child, coloured markers.*

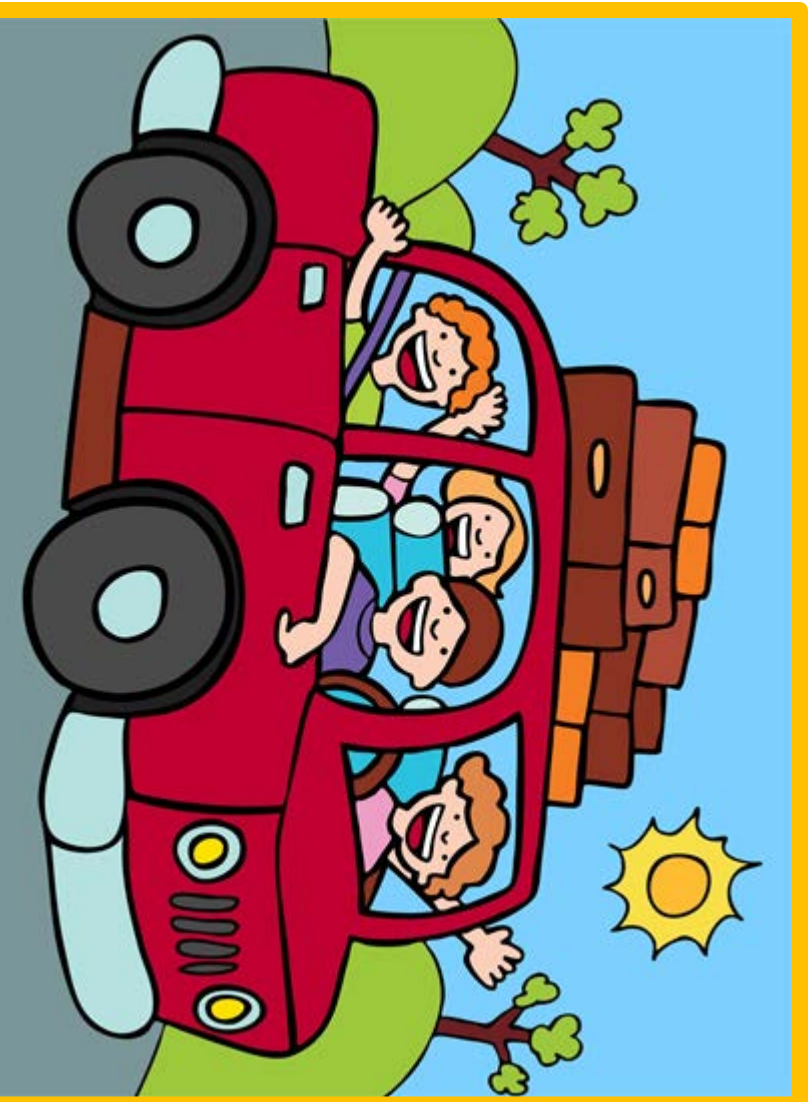
1. Invite the children to draw a picture of their family inside the frame. They might like to write the name of each person too.
2. Encourage the children to decorate the photo frame.
3. Children might like to display these picture frames in their homes and to say a prayer of blessing over their family during the week.



# God Bless My Family



Draw a picture of your family in the frame.  
Then decorate the frame.



# KEEP US SAFE

WRITE A PRAYER ASKING ST JOSEPH AND THE VIRGIN MARY  
TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE ON YOUR HOLIDAYS

**Dear St Joseph,**

**Mary, our Mother,**



**MARY  
AND JOSEPH  
TOOK BABY JESUS  
ALL THE WAY TO EGYPT  
TO KEEP HIM SAFE  
FROM DANGER**