St. James Catholic Church

3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110

"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."

Reflection from Ben Babaran

Happy feast day to all! Although this year, we are reading the Gospel of Luke, may I point out that the Holy Family has sort of a zigzagged history in Matthew's account of those early days in their family life. Do you remember the near divorce on Joseph's part? How about them fleeing from Bethlehem after Jesus' birth? Then, they were heading back to Bethlehem when they discovered that Herod's son was as bad as his father, so they changed plans to go north to Nazareth.

Our families have a zigzagged history like the Holy Family. The extended families are included in this. "The way of true love never did go smooth." – Shakespeare

On this Holy Family Sunday, we remember that Jesus was a part of an extended family. May we realize that Jesus experienced all that goes with this – the give and take, the imperfect relationships, and the need for patience, acceptance, and kindness.

Our second reading on the Feast of the Holy Family puts it very well: "Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love."

Thus, here is our challenge today: Let us make our families especially our St. James family a confessional rather than a courtroom. May we refrain from arguing like attorneys in our attempt to justify our behavior. Instead, may we be ready to admit our faults and try to correct them.

Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of our parish family, especially the McCarty family as Patty passed away Christmas morning. May she rest in peace.

May God bless all our families in the New Year!