

# FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

**January 1, 2017**

**Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

Mary, the Mother of God and our Blessed Mother is The Model Disciple for all of us. The Gospels portray her as having a heart always open to the Lord and His will. How can our hearts be open like hers? Take time to be mindful of God acting in the world and to prayerfully reflect on these instances in our hearts.

**January 5, 2020**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

Herod was frightened of Jesus. He feared Jesus would replace him and he would lose control. In families fear appears when we are threatened by what is out of our control. We fret but it does us no good. Give these situations to the Lord and let Him lead us like He led the Magi.

**January 12, 2020**

**The Baptism of the Lord**

When Jesus came to John to be baptized, John resisted because of his own unworthiness. Jesus insisted and John obeyed. We, too, must not let our unworthiness stand in the way of the Lord's leading. False humility does not serve the Lord. Listen, obey and see what God will do.

**January 19, 2020**

**Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Even though they were cousins and grew up together, in today's Gospel, John the Baptist admits, "I don't know him" until the Spirit opened his eyes. Pray that the Spirit will open your eyes so that you can see and appreciate each other beyond the surface of daily routines.

**January 26, 2020**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Gospel tells us that Jesus "withdrew" when John the Baptist was arrested. It is important to know when to withdraw. Many disputes at home are about petty things. We may win an argument but damage the relationship. Knowing when to withdraw from conflict is the Spirit's gift of wisdom and the reward is peace.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

**January 1, 2020**

For hearts which are open and trusting to God as Mary's was. Let us pray to the Lord.

**January 5, 2020**

For an end to fear, threats, coercion, and violence in families. Let us pray to the Lord.

**January 12, 2020**

For parents asking the Church to baptize their children, that they might be channels of God's love and model disciples of Jesus at home. Let us pray to the Lord.

**January 19, 2020**

For an end to abortion, healing for those impacted by abortion, and for laws to protect unborn children. Let us pray to the Lord.

**January 26, 2020**

That God will give parents wisdom to model and teach the Gospel and give their children open hearts and minds to receive this life-giving word. Let us pray to the Lord.