

Praised be Jesus, Mary, and Saint Joseph, now and forever!

The Sunday after the Epiphany we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph, while we commemorate the first Sunday after Epiphany. Who are your three best friends here on earth? If you have a real close friend, do you like to be in that friend's presence? Do you like it when your friends show that they care for you? Are you grateful when your friends provide you with something? If you have friends that are the benefactor of everything you have, is it not just that you do everything they ask of you? If you have friends who are very influential and extremely powerful and all wise and all holy do you feel very secure and confident that they could help you, provided you do your part?

Do you know that a good way to avoid sin, and at the same time obtain a high degree of sanctity for eternity, is to live continually in the presence of God? Of the billions or trillions of people that have lived on earth, which two people spent the most time with Jesus when He walked on earth? Who can teach us how to know, love, and serve Jesus better than his holy mother Mary and his foster father St. Joseph?

Surely you have heard the saying, "A man is known by the company he keeps." Do you keep company with Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph? No really, how often during every day do you recall their presence? Do you visit with them frequently during the day? Do you go into their company if troubles come your way? Do you share your joy and jubilation with them throughout the day? Do you ask yourself such things as: what would Jesus, and/or Mary, and/or St. Joseph say in these circumstances? What would they do if they were in my circumstances? How would they treat my neighbors? Would they do the same thing I am doing as an example for everyone who sees me?

How many of God's commandments would I break if I vividly recalled that Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph were there with me? Would I ever take part in non-Catholic services? Would I serve idols such as the world? I can only serve one master, which one am I serving? Would I ever curse, swear, or use God's name in vain? Would I do unnecessary servile work on Sunday, buy unnecessary things on Sunday, and not keep Sunday as a holy day with extra prayers, alms deeds, and good works? Does the television, love of sports, and entertainment, take up more of my time on Sunday than keeping union with God by prayer, meditation, and recollection of His presence? Would I be disobedient to parents, or lawful authority, and disrespectful? Would I become angry, quarrel, argue, fight, and commit slow suicide by putting preservatives and other poisonous-unhealthy food in my body, or by smoking, taking drugs, and drinking excessively? Would I look a second time at immodestly dressed people, and other immoral things? Would I commit sins of impurity with myself or with others if I recalled that Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph were right there watching? If I recalled that someday everyone will stand before Jesus and be judged before the rest of the world? Would I ever steal anything from anyone, knowing that Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph were watching? Would I steal anything remembering that everything must be paid back and restitution be made before I can go to heaven? Would I ever commit the sins of backbiting, slander, and

saying evil things about my neighbor? Would I covet my neighbor's wife or covet my neighbor's goods?

Yes, let us live in the continual presence of God, and keep company with Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph at all times. There are many things to help you do so. Go to [WWW.JMJsitE.com](http://WWW.JMJsitE.com) and you will find many, many such things.