

GOSPEL PEARLS

Three prophetic days

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Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him

were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. (Luke 2: 41-51)

During the Passover feast, the twelve-year-old Jesus was separated from his parents for three days. His parents, however, eventually find him by going back to look for him in Jerusalem. Their son was missing for three days, as would happen in Christ's Passion in the days between his death and resurrection. May we ask Our Lady to help us never to doubt the truths of faith, such as the Resurrection, which our Church teaches us to believe.