

PRAYERS FOR THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY (2021-2022)

PRAYER OF ENGAGED COUPLE

Father in heaven, bless our rings of engagement, and grant us Your grace, so that we may prepare worthily for the sacrament of marriage, and live as Your beloved children. Almighty Father bless us. Grant us love and happiness, peace and joy, and strength in trials, all the days of our life together. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Blessed are you, Lord, for by your goodness I took N. as my wife.

Blessed are you, Lord, for by your goodness I took N. as my husband.

Blessed are you, Lord, for in the good and the bad times of our life you have stood lovingly by our side. Help us, we pray, to remain faithful in our love for one another, so that we may be true witnesses to the covenant you have made with humankind.

Lord, bless and sanctify our love; let these rings, a sign of our faithfulness, remind us of our love for one another and recall the grace of the Sacrament.

Lord keep us safe all the days of our life. Be our comfort in adversity and our support in prosperity. Fill our home with his blessings. Through Christ our Lord.

PARENTS' PRAYER BEFORE CHILDBIRTH

Gracious Father, your Word, spoken in love, created the human family and, in the fullness of time, your Son, conceived in love, restored it to your friendship. Hear all the prayers of us who await the birth of our child. Father, calm our fears when we are anxious. Watch over and support us and bring our child into this world safely and in good health, so that as members of your family we may praise you and glorify you through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen. Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

PARENTS' PRAYER WHO LOST THEIR CHILD

We trust in you Jesus, our loving Saviour. You gathered children into your arms and blessed the little ones. We now commend our child to the same, your embrace of love, in the hope that our child will rejoice and be happy in your presence. Lord Jesus, lovingly receive our child. Bless our baby and take our child to your Father.

Father, ever-caring and gentle, we commit to your love our child who brought joy to our lives for so short a time. Enfold our baby in eternal life.

[Lord, you formed our child in the womb; you have known it by name before time began. We now wish to name this little one N.: a name we shall treasure in our hearts for ever.]

Father soothe our hearts and bring peace to our lives. Enlighten our faith and give hope to our hearts. Comfort us with the hope that our baby lives with you and your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Our Father... Hail Mary...

FAMILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before You to praise You and to thank You for the great gift of our family.

We pray to You for our family consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May we rediscover each day the grace we have received, and as a small domestic Church, may we know how to witness to Your presence and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We also pray to You for our family when we are faced with difficulty and suffering caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know.

Sustain us and make us aware of the path to holiness upon which You call us, so that we might experience Your infinite mercy and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for our children (our grown up children) and young people: may they encounter You and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them.

We pray for our grandparents: may they be aware that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them; and for the experience of fraternity that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that we might live our specific vocation to holiness in the Church as a call to become missionary disciples, in the service of life and peace, in communion with our priests, religious, and all vocations in the Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

A PARENT'S PRAYER

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings. We thank and praise you. Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness. May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place. May

their hands do works of charity. May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR UNBELIEVING (Not Practising) CHILDREN / GRANDCHILDREN

Father, I thank You for my children / grandchildren and the joy that they have brought into our lives, but Lord my heart aches for them to come to faith in Jesus Christ, and I pray that You would bring my precious, unbelieving children to a conversion and a saving faith in Christ.

Thank You, that You loved the world so much that You sent Your own, dearly beloved Son to be the propitiation for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Thank You, that whosoever believes in Christ Jesus will not perish but have everlasting life.

I pray that eyes of my dearly beloved, yet unbelieving children / grandchildren, would be opened to the truth of the glorious gospel of grace and that they would turn from their sins to Christ and be born into Your eternal family of God. Into Your hands I entrust my children whom I so desire to be saved, and pray that in Your mercy You would guide him into all truth. Amen.

A GODMOTHER'S / GODFATHER'S PRAYER

O Merciful Jesus, have mercy on my goddaughter / godson. Give her / him the grace to grow closer to you. May she / he come to your Eucharist and learn to love it, as it embodies You on earth. May she / he regularly receive your forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please show her / him Your favour with gifts from the Holy Spirit. Give her / him the strength to resist temptation and always serve You. And when his/her journey is done, take her / him home to enjoy life everlasting. I ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

A GRANDPARENT'S PRAYER

Saint Ann and Joachim, I am an anxious grandparent who worries and prays for my grandchildren. They are confronted with a life full of obstacles, dangers and difficult issues. They are not always aware of them. I beg you to take them under your maternal protection, because you took such good care of your Grandson, Jesus.

You taught your daughter, Mary, to observe the Commandments and to love God and neighbour. Now I entrust my grandchildren to you.

How delighted you were when your Grandson Jesus was born! Out of that same love for Him, please extend your protection to my grandchildren. Some are still young while others have grown up and are facing life's responsibilities. Bless them all. Help them discover the importance of prayer, the beauty of Christian values and love of the Lord! Keep them from danger, harm, temptations, and all obstacles to their true happiness!

Good Saint Ann and Joachim, please keep all grandparents and grandchildren in your loving care. Amen.

A YOUNG CHILD'S PRAYER FOR THEIR PARENTS

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for my parents. I love my them both and I am glad that they are my mummy and daddy and I am glad that I am their child too. Thank You that they take care of me, and please bless them every day.

Sometimes my parents have to discipline me when I do wrong things. I am sorry that I keep doing wrong things, I know that they are called my sins, but I am so glad that I know You Lord Jesus, and that You died for me on the cross to pay the price for all my sins and thank You that You rose again so that we could be with You in heaven.

Thank You, that You have given me my mummy and daddy to look after me and when I grow up I want to be like them and tell my children about You Lord Jesus. Please bless my mummy and daddy every day. Amen.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS FOR ABUSIVE PARENTS

Father, my childhood was not the happy time that I would have liked it to be and my parents were certainly not the ideal example of parenthood, but Lord, I know that in their way they tried to do their best for us, but it always seemed to go sour.

Thank You, Lord, that in Your grace, You lifted me out of this difficult and abusive family life to faith in Jesus. I praise You every day that You found me and brought me into Your family.

Lord, I bring my parents to You. Life seems to have passed them by and they need to know Jesus as their Saviour. Lord, I know that You died for them as well and forgave every sin they have committed, for You are a gracious and loving God. I too want to forgive them for all that they did to me. I forgive both my parents, and thank You that in Your grace, You are taking me through a process of healing all the hurt and pain that I had to go through.

Bless them both, dear Lord Jesus, and I pray that both of them will come to know You as their Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MY DIVORCED PARENTS

Loving Father, I bring both my parents to You, and though it saddens my heart that they chose to go through a divorce, I still love them both and pray that You would be gracious to them and draw them both closer into Your loving arms.

As they each forge their own path through life, be with each of them to comfort and help, to lead and to guide. Be their strength in times of weakness, their hope in times of discouragement and their provision in times of need.

Thank You, Lord, for my parents and the good times that we had together. Thank You for all that they taught me and the training that they gave me in my childhood and youth. Father, as

they go their separate ways from each other, I pray that You would be their ever present companion and comforter in the days that lie ahead. Amen.

PRAYER FOR UNBELIEVING PARENTS

Father in heaven, I bring my dear mother and father to You, those who brought me into this world and gave me the gift of life. I do thank You for all the loving support and care they have given me throughout my life, but I am also aware that they do not know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

I do praise You that in Your grace You searched me out to become Your child, and gave me the gift of eternal life, but Lord, I long that my parents also come to that same saving faith in Jesus. Lord, whatever it takes, I pray that in Your mercy, You will give both of them the sort of Damascus Road experience that Paul had, before it is too late. Draw them to Yourself I pray.

Bring them, Lord, to an understanding of who You are and what You have done for them - that You died on the cross to forgive their sins - and all that they have to do is to believe on Jesus as their Saviour.

Use me Lord in whatever way You choose, to point them to Christ. Let me not speak out of turn, but let me not miss an opportunity to share the gospel with them once more. Father, I honour them as my parents and love them dearly, but Father, save them I pray. Draw them with Your love, so that we may all be together in Your eternal home. Amen.