

## **Feast of the Holy Family – Dec 29, 2019**

### SPECIAL MASS LITURGY: THEME – OUR FAMILY, A LITTLE CHURCH OF MUTUAL LOVE & RESPECT

#### INTRODUCTION:

As we continue the celebration of the season of Christmas we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in a special way today. In honouring the life of this family – simple, faithful to each other and to God's Will in their lives, we remember in our prayer, all families small and big, the family of God - the Church and humanity.

The Holy Family lived a life like in any home – they worked, spent time together, ate, celebrated, lived in a community with all the joys and pains that daily life brings. Mary and Joseph were blessed to have Jesus with them. We too are blessed because Jesus promised that He is *with us till the end of time*. The family of Nazareth lived holiness in everything they did and they also faced challenges as the Gospel of today tells us. Let us draw strength from our Lord Jesus, his Mother Mary and Saint Joseph. Let us lift up to them every moment in our family – every joy, every struggle, every suffering. Let us ask God to help us love our families – our little Church – and reach out to the larger family of God – humanity!

#### **PENITENTIAL RITE**

Holy Trinity, your relationship with one another models for us how to relate to each other, For the times when as spouses, we have failed to support each other and forgive each other, we ask your pardon Lord – LORD HAVE MERCY

God our Father, You have nurtured us with your faithful love, For the times when as parents we have failed to love our children with the Love of Jesus and understand their challenges, we ask your pardon Lord – CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Lord Jesus, lived with your parents and grew in age and wisdom, For the times when as children, we have failed to be sensitive, respectful and helpful towards our parents and their needs, we ask your pardon Lord – LORD HAVE MERCY

#### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

#### INTRODUCTION:

Celebrant: Dear brothers and sisters, let us approach God our Loving Father as one parish family and place before him our prayers and petitions for the needs of families and for the whole world.

As we pray together, we ask you Lord, to hear our prayers – **Resp: Lord hear our prayer.**

#### **FOR THE POPE, CLERGY, RELIGIOUS**

We pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis who has always encouraged families to live Holiness in the small day to day challenges they face. We pray also for our clergy and religious who through their lives and their ministry, bring together the children of Christ and humanity as a family. **Resp: Lord hear our prayer.**

#### **FOR LEADERS & INFLUENCERS**

Heavenly Father in our world today, family life is threatened in so many ways. We pray for all leaders and persons of influence, that they may promote initiatives that support life and families. **Resp: Lord hear our prayer.**

### **FOR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

We bring to you Lord, the relationships in our families – between spouses, parents & children, siblings and the larger family. Help us to remember to live mutual respect, cordiality and love so that our home may truly be a little Church enriched with your presence among us. **Resp: Lord hear our prayer.**

### **FOR THE LONELY & THE SICK**

We pray in a special way Lord, for all those who feel alone and uncared-for. We also remember those who are suffering from illness of any kind. Be with each one in their pain and help them to feel your love Lord and your healing touch. **Resp: Lord hear our prayer.**

### **FOR FAMILIES IN DISTRESS**

We lift up to you, families in distress – couples who are facing strained or fractured relationship challenges, parents and children who are struggling with each other. Help each family member take a step to forgive one another and to start over again, strengthened by your eternal Love and presence in our midst. **Resp: Lord hear our prayer.**

### **FOR 'NEW' FAMILIES**

Eternal Father, we lift up to you, all those starting out on their family adventure – newly married couples, expectant parents, parents with young children and those making a fresh start in their family relationships. Bless their celebrations and joys Lord and help them to look to your life and love as they move ahead as joyful little Churches. **Resp: Lord hear our prayer.**

### **Celebrant:**

Heavenly Father, on this the Feast of the Holy Family, we bring to you our families – large and small. We also bring to you the larger family of Humanity and ask you to cover the world with your Peace, Joy and Love.

### **THANKSGIVING PRAYER (GRAND-PARENT, PARENT, CHILD)**

- Grandparent: We thank you Lord for this beautiful Feast of the Holy Family which gives us an opportunity to look at our own family lives and help each other to go ahead in a renewed way. We thank you for the **gift of Faith** that you have entrusted to each one of us – help us to live our Faith through our lives – in **accepting the sufferings and trials** that come our way, in **sharing the wonders you have worked** in our lives and in **supporting the younger generations and society** in any way that we can.
- Parent: We thank you Lord for the **gift of our children** and for entrusting to us their education and faith formation. Help us to be loving towards each other as spouses so that we can be an **example of your Love** to our children. We thank you for blessing our children with talents and opportunities to be witnesses of your Love and care. Help us to be **open in our communication, generous in our sharing** and **forgiving of each other's weaknesses**.
- Child: Thank You Lord for the world that we live in – for the **technological progress** that impacts our lives, for the **society** that we are live in, for the **future** that we face. Help us to be **sensitive to the people** in our lives – our parents & grandparents, family & friends and others who are in need of our help. Help us to make the **choice to reach out** to others so that we may **build your kingdom** of Love & Light as we go through life.

- **SNEHALAYA, Mahim**