

Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday 27 December 2020

Guidelines for 1) A Home Para-Liturgy and 2) A Church Liturgy

(Note: Since not all families may be physically present in the Church this year for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we suggest a 'home para-liturgy' which can be celebrated in families and then a possible liturgy for the Parish Eucharistic Celebration.)

A HOME PARA-LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

Preparation

(The family sets up a little prayer space, possibly around the family crib. All sit in a circle. Place on a table family pictures of weddings, functions etc. and also sad times of the loss of a family member or any such events.)

Introduction

We honour the Holy Family of Nazareth in which Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph. We also appreciate our own family that has been called to imitate the life of the Holy Family.

We now listen to what the Church teaches about family:

“in the human family, gathered by Christ, ‘the image and likeness’ of the Most Holy Trinity (Cf Gen 1:26) has been restored, the mystery from which all true-life flows. Through the Church, marriage and the family receive the grace of the Holy Spirit from Christ, in order to bear witness to the gospel of God’s love.”
63 (Amoris Laetitia No. 71)

Scripture Reading (use the Family Bible)

St Paul to Colossians 3:12-21 (2nd reading of the Mass of the Holy Family)
(Before reading, tell the members of the family that they must listen to the text and pick up one or two qualities mentioned in the reading. These are the qualities that they themselves want to practice in their home in the coming days. One may say ‘compassionate hearts’, another may say, ‘forgiving each other’ and so on.

Now start reading prayerfully the text mentioned above.)

Penitential Prayer

(Each of the following prayers can be printed out on slips of paper, white or coloured. After reading the prayer by different family members, they crumple the forgiveness prayer and place them one by one in the crib.)

1. For the times when, in our family, we have failed to love and respect one another unconditionally, just as you have loved us. We ask your forgiveness.. Lord have mercy.

2. For the times when we have failed to extend help & kindness to the needy, to the homeless, to the sick and have failed to understand that we are all children of our same living God. We ask your forgiveness. Christ have mercy.

3. For the times when we have failed to acknowledge the many blessings around us because we had been blinded by our own unreasonable desires and needs. We ask your forgiveness. Lord have mercy.

Concluding Prayer (Given by Pope Francis in ‘Amoris Laetitia’ no. 325)

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
 in you we contemplate the splendour of true love;
 to you we turn with trust, Holy Family of Nazareth,
 grant that our families too
 may be places of communion and prayer,
 authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.
 Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience
 violence, rejection and division;
 may all who have been hurt or scandalized
 find ready comfort and healing.
 Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and
 inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God’s plan.
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

The family holds hands and together prayer one Our Father and one Hail Mary.

Sing: A favourite family hymn in any language

Fr Cleophas Fernandes

Snehalaya Family Service Centre

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Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday 27 December 2020
A Church Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist
(Either online or with physical presence)

INTRODUCTION

Within the Octave of Christmas, we honour the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. As we reflect on how God entered our human condition to experience our life and live it, we also offer and bring before God our own families.

Though our Family life is experiencing a crisis in many areas; financial, health, uncertainties and in some families, there is grief of having lost a loved one, as we look up to the family of Nazareth, the holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace, strength and blessings.

God knows our every need and He is faithful to His promises and He answers our prayers. As a family we are called to build our homes on the rock of God's word in the Bible. Every family can tide of the most difficult times by the word of God and family prayer.

On this feast day we surrender ourselves and our family to God to be sanctified and to make our family a holy family in imitation of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Penitential Rite:

For the times when, in our family, we have failed to love and respect one another unconditionally, just as you have loved us. We ask your forgiveness. Lord have mercy.

For the times when we have failed to extend help & kindness to the needy, to the homeless, to the sick and have failed to understand that we are all children of our same living God. We ask your forgiveness. Christ have mercy.

For the times when we have failed to acknowledge the many blessings around us because we had been blinded by our own unreasonable desires and needs. We ask your forgiveness. Lord have mercy.

Prayer of the Faithful

Celebrant: As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, we place before God our loving Father, our families with its joys and strengths and with its brokenness and imperfections. We are confident that God will never abandon us but answer our prayers in the way He chooses.

As we come together in prayer, we ask you Lord to bless and sanctify us.

Resp: Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, Our Cardinal, Our Bishops and all the Clergy that you bless and sanctify them and protect them from all dangers and difficulties. That they be blessed with the grace to protect and support family values and help families reconcile to God our Loving Father

Resp: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for healing and forgiveness in our families. We pray for the grace to pray together and to grow in love and fellowship with each other and in intimacy with you.

Resp: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for migrant families; that they be provided with shelter and sustenance and respect.

Resp: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the families who have Differently Abled Members; that you give them the patience, ability and compassion to dispense their responsibilities.

Resp: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the bereaved families; those who have lost their loved ones during the lockdown due to the Corona virus and other sickness that you comfort them and help them to grow out of their grief.

Resp: Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the families who are facing various challenges and difficulties and are feeling hopeless; please give them hope, joy and sustenance and help us to reach out to them.

Resp: Lord hear our prayer

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of family. Please answer the prayers we have put before you and bring all your faithful people into your family of grace. We ask this Christ our Lord, Amen

Thanksgiving Prayer: (Can be prayed by a couple of the parish)

Concluding Prayer (Given by Pope Francis in 'Amoris Laetitia' no. 325)

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