

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Saint Joseph, pray for the head of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care.

Mother Mary, pray for the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing. For the more she resembles you, the better will our family be.

Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more and more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and strength and grace before God and man.

Holy Family of Nazareth, by your intercession, love, and holy example, make our family and home more and more like Yours, until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You  
Amen

*SCRIPTURE READINGS*

1<sup>ST</sup> COINTHAIANS 13 V 4-7

DEUTORONOMY 6 V 5-9

EPHESIANS 6 V 1-4

YOU CAN READ ONE OR TWO OR ALL.



*FAMILY  
DEVOTIONAL*

FAMILY DISCUSSION

IN THIS YEAR OF THE FAMILY HOW CAN WE BRING GOD MORE INTO OUR FAMILY?

Closing Prayer

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, may the approaching Synod of Bishops 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

This Holy Family statue provide us with the reminder of the beauty of family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the models for family life. They remind us of the Father as Protector, the Mother as Love and the baby as the wondrous gift of life requiring devotion and sacrifice.

What makes a family Holy by Pope Francis

1. The family prays.

Do you pray together from time to time as a family? Some of you do. But so many people ask But how can we; iin the family how is this done? After all, prayer seems to be something personal, and besides there is never a good time, a moment of peace. Yes, all that is true enough, but it is also a matter of humility, of realizing that we need God... all of us! We need his help, his strength, his blessing, his mercy, his forgiveness. And we need simplicity to pray as a family: simplicity is necessary! Praying the Our Father together, around the table, is not something extraordinary: it's easy. And praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents....praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong: prayer.

2. The family keeps the faith.

How do we keep our faith as a family? Do we keep it for ourselves, in our families, as a personal treasure like a bank account, or are we able to share it by our witness, by our acceptance of others, by our openness? We all know that families, especially young families, are often "racing" from one place to another, with lots to do. But did you ever think that this "racing" could also be the race of faith? Christian families are missionary families. ...They are missionary in everyday life, in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith! Keeping the faith in families and bringing to everyday things the salt and the leaven of faith.

3. The family experiences joy.

How are things when it comes to joy at home? Is there joy in your family? answer this question. You know very well that the true joy which we experience in the family is not superficial; it does not come from material objects, from the fact that everything seems to be going well. True joy comes from a profound harmony between persons, something which we all feel in our hearts and which makes us experience the beauty of togetherness, of mutual support along life's journey. The basis of this feeling of deep joy is the presence of God, in the family and his love, which is welcoming, merciful, and respectful towards all. And a love which is patient: patience is a virtue of God and he teaches us how to cultivate it in family life, how to be patient, and lovingly so, with each other and among ourselves. God alone knows how to create harmony from differences. If God's love is lacking, the family loses its harmony, self-centredness prevails and joy fades. The family which experiences the joy of faith communicates it naturally. That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world, it is the leaven of society as a whole.