

## A PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME

WHEN ATTENDANCE AT MASS IS NOT POSSIBLE

### **Holy Family Sunday**

In these extraordinary times when we cannot gather as a Christian Community to celebrate Mass, let us unite ourselves spiritually to the Mass as it is being celebrated in our churches.

This resource is offered to provide a ritual by which families, "the domestic church," can keep the Lord's day holy by joining together to celebrate part of the Church's liturgy at home. Ideally, the head of the family will lead the service; other members of the family should take on roles as readers.

It would be appropriate to celebrate this service at the usual time the family would attend Mass. If possible, prepare a suitable prayer space with a crucifix, holy picture and/or a candle or two. If the family is blessed with musical talent, hymns would be appropriate.

#### INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

#### GREETING

**Leader:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Blessed be God for ever.

**All:** Blessed be God for ever.

#### PENITENTIAL ACT

**Leader:** Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us acclaim the Father's forgiveness, for God is full of gentleness and compassion.

*After a pause for silent reflection, the leader continues.*

**Leader:** You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You came to call sinners:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy.**

## GLORIA

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
    receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
    have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## COLLECT

**Leader:** Let us pray.

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

**Reader:** A reading from the Book of Sirach

God sets a father in honor over his children;  
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.  
Whoever honors his father atones for sins,  
and preserves himself from them.  
When he prays, he is heard;  
he stores up riches who reveres his mother.  
Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,  
and, when he prays, is heard.  
Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;  
he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;  
grieve him not as long as he lives.  
Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;  
revile him not all the days of his life;  
kindness to a father will not be forgotten,  
firmly planted against the debt of your sins  
—a house raised in justice to you.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 1, 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

**Reader:** Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**All:** **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

**Reader:** Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,  
who walks in his ways!  
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;  
blessed shall you be, and favored.

**All:** **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

**Reader:** Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
in the recesses of your home;  
your children like olive plants  
around your table.

**All:** **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

**Reader:** Behold, thus is the man blessed  
who fears the LORD.  
The LORD bless you from Zion:  
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.

**All:** **Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

## SECOND READING

Col 3:12-21

**Reader:** A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:  
Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,  
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,  
if one has a grievance against another;  
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.  
And over all these put on love,  
that is, the bond of perfection.  
And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,  
the peace into which you were also called in one body.  
And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,  
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs  
with gratitude in your hearts to God.  
And whatever you do, in word or in deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands,  
as is proper in the Lord.  
Husbands, love your wives,  
and avoid any bitterness toward them.  
Children, obey your parents in everything,  
for this is pleasing to the Lord.  
Fathers, do not provoke your children,  
so they may not become discouraged.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Col 3:15A, 16A**

**Cantor:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Cantor:** Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;  
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL**

**Lk 2:22-40**

**Leader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** When the days were completed for their purification  
according to the law of Moses,  
They took him up to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord,

just as it is written in the law of the Lord,  
*Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,*  
and to offer the sacrifice of  
*a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,*  
in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.  
This man was righteous and devout,  
awaiting the consolation of Israel,  
and the Holy Spirit was upon him.  
It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit  
that he should not see death  
before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.  
He came in the Spirit into the temple;  
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus  
to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,  
He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:  
“Now, Master, you may let your servant go  
in peace, according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel.”  
The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;  
and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
“Behold, this child is destined  
for the fall and rise of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be contradicted  
—and you yourself a sword will pierce—  
so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”  
There was also a prophetess, Anna,  
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.  
She was advanced in years,  
having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,  
and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.  
She never left the temple,  
but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.  
And coming forward at that very time,  
she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child  
to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions  
of the law of the Lord,  
they returned to Galilee,  
to their own town of Nazareth.  
The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## REFLECTION

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

**All:** I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
[All bow during the following two lines:]  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Leader:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**All:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.

### PRAYER OF BLESSING

**Leader:** St Michael, the Archangel, Protect and Pray for us.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us; the Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

#### SOURCES

Father McLaughlin, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Richboro, PA

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