

Ministry of Praise

Every Christian Family is Called to be a Holy Family “With Jesus at the Center”

We think of them as nearly perfect, and perhaps they were. After all, Jesus was fully human and fully divine, Mary was conceived without sin, and Joseph was a saint. But we also need to remember that the Holy Family was a human family, living in difficult times.

This means that they faced many of the same struggles that families do today...money worries, scrounging for work for Joseph. Mary had to undergo the pains of childbirth. There were misunderstandings in the family...when Jesus was “lost” in the temple and his parents were frantic. The next time you think that your family is the only one that deals with misunderstandings, think again.



In the holy habitation of Nazareth, Jesus transformed daily life. In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we can learn the way of love in the School of Nazareth. Each one of us finds out how to live differently by making Jesus Christ the center of our life together. Through our Baptism we are now invited to live our lives in Jesus Christ by living them in the Church.

Jesus spent 30 of His 33 earthly years in Nazareth. These years reveal the holiness of ordinary life and show us how it becomes extraordinary for those baptized into Christ. The Christian family is the smallest cell of the Body of Christ, the Church. Family is where the rubber hits the road for most Christians. It is here where the universal call to holiness in all its real earthy humanness and ordinariness is first issued. It is here where we learn the way of discipleship.

**The Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is more than a holy card.
It is our pattern for growing in holiness.**

May the Holy Family, who had to overcome many painful trials, watch over all the families in the world, especially those who are experiencing difficult situations. May the Holy Family also help men and women of culture and political leaders so that they may defend the institution of the family, based on marriage, and so that they may sustain the family as it confronts the grave challenges of the modern age!

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society.

Support them! As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families, strong pillars of Gospel faith, living treasuries of religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.



FEB. 2 – FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

“When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male who opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord* and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons in accord 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 the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to all the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

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.”

Simeon and Anna waited in patient faith for the Sun of Justice. Let us seek the Lord with all our hearts as they did, so that we too may recognize him when he comes into our lives.



February 14

ONCE AGAIN, LENT IS UPON US

“The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear and do not refuse to help your own relatives.” (Isaiah 58: 6-7)

BOTHERING

BOTHERING TO LOVE: A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR LENT, 2018

By James Martin, S.J. (Adapted)

What are you giving up for Lent this year? That’s what many Christians ask each other. The most common thing to forego is some kind of food or indulgence: chocolate or soda, cigarettes and liquor.

Fasting originated as a way of saving money on food so that Christians could give it to the poor. Some fasting is a way to remind ourselves that we don’t always have to give in to our appetites and that there are millions who are hungry, who need our attention.

But this Lent, I’d like to suggest not giving something up, but *DOING* something. Specifically, try to *Do* some *BOTHERING*. Jesus doesn’t condemn those who are weak and trying hard. He rebukes those who are strong and not trying at all. Don’t look at where you are failing but where you are not even *BOTHERING*.

Instead of giving up chocolate for the umpteenth year, why not *BOTHER* to call a friend who is lonely? Instead of turning off your TV, why not *BOTHER* to donate money to the poor? Instead of passing up potato chips, *BOTHER* to visit a sick relative.

In the Gospels Jesus says, “It is mercy I desire, not sacrifice.”
Here’s a novel idea for Lent: Why not take Jesus at His word?

“The Lord is with me; I am not afraid.”

(Psalm 118:6)

O Lord, this season of Lent is an opportunity to assess our lives and see where we’ve strayed from your path. Help us grow closer to you during this holy season, that our lives may mirror Christ’s love for the world and all its people. Amen.

Our Needs, Worries and Concerns

Confident in the Father's mercy, we now pray:

† That the Church may act as mediator in finding solutions to problems affecting peace, social harmony and the defense of human life and civil rights, we pray: Father, hear us.

† That those engaged in business will serve society by working to make the goods of the world accessible to all, we pray: Father, hear us.

† On the World Day of the Sick, Feb. 11, that those who are sick, especially the chronically ill, may know healing, friendship and strength, we pray: Father, hear us.

† That this season of Lent will be a time of greater prayer and fervent devotion for us and for all of the Church, we pray: Father, hear us.

† That we will be generous in our almsgiving this Lent and attentive to the poor, we pray: Father, hear us.

† That during this Lent we may decide to DO something instead of GIVE UP something, we pray: Father, hear us.

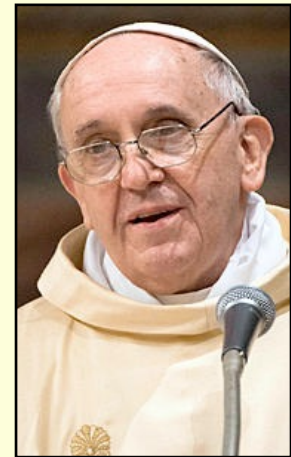
† That families will recommit themselves to heartfelt prayer this Lent so as to grow in love and holiness, we pray: Father, hear us.

† For the faithful departed, that they may be welcomed into their heavenly home, we pray: Father, hear us.

Loving Father, bless our observance of Lent so that we will live as your faithful, holy children.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

LENT



Words by Pope Francis:

“Prayer is the strength of the Christian. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more tireless and persevering.”



Those Who Recently Found Eternal Rest:

- Charles Markward
- Louis J. Hassling
- Robert Mager
- Ervin Recker
- Art Grothouse
- Rose Hilvers
- Alice Hoehn
- Norman Hesselting
- Juletta Recker

LITANY OF COMPASSION FOR THE SICK

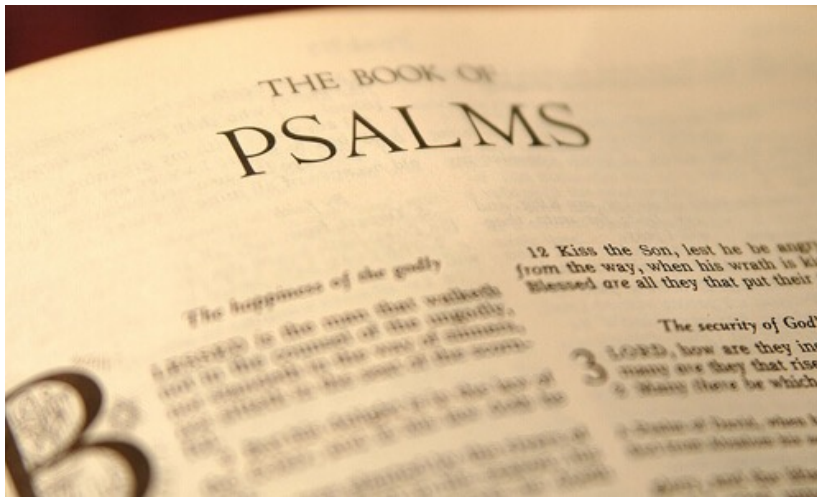
We pray with special love and concern for all those who are ill or infirm, asking the Lord for his consoling grace to strengthen the sick in times of trial.

Response: *Lord, be close to give your comfort.*

- When pain or distress is overwhelming: Resp.**
- When the healing process goes slower than hoped: Resp.**
- When terrified by treatments or therapy: Resp.**
- When it's hard to let go of long-held plans: Resp.**
- When worn out and weary: Resp.**
- When loneliness adds to anxiety: Resp.**
- When sickness makes it difficult to communicate: Resp.**
- When anger and resentment assail: Resp.**
- When it's hard to rely on others for care: Resp.**
- When sickness is mistaken for punishment: Resp.**
- When loved ones are far away: Resp.**
- When sickness causes financial hardship that leads to worry or despair: Resp.**
- When weakness makes it impossible even to think: Resp.**
- When friends draw back, fearful of disease: Resp.**
- When it's difficult to sleep: Resp.**
- When there's loss of appetite: Resp.**
- When nobody seems to understand: Resp.**
- When bound to home or when restricted in movement: Resp.**
- When medication seems to make things worse: Resp.**
- When all that's needed is a caring touch: Resp.**
- When it's hard to find the strength to go on: Resp.**
- When it becomes difficult to pray: Resp.**
- When death draws near: Resp.**

Most merciful Father, your beloved Son showed special tenderness to those long sick and healing to the infirm. We place before you all those who are ill and in need of healing grace. May the love and mercy of the Divine Physician raise up all who suffer from sickness and restore them to health and peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.



THE PSALMS

The 150 Psalms in the Bible are a precious legacy we Catholics have inherited from our spiritual ancestors. The followers of all three of the great Abrahamic religions ... Jews, Christians and Muslims ... share these psalms. The psalms were the daily prayer of Jesus himself.

PSALM 100 (3)

**Sing to the Lord, all the world!
Worship the Lord with joy;
Come before him with happy songs!
Acknowledge that the Lord is God.
He made us, and we belong to Him.
We are his people, we are his flock.**

PSALM 139 (1-6)

**Lord, you have examined me and you know me.
You know everything I do; from far away you understand all my thoughts.
You see me, whether I am working or resting;
You know all my actions.
Even before I speak, you already know what I will say.
You are all around me on every side;
You protect me with your power.
Your knowledge of me is too deep;
It is beyond my understanding.**

PSALM 23 (1-4)

**The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.
He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths.
Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord,
for you are with me.
Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.**
