

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# HOLY FAMILY

PRAYER PROGRAM

*2015-2016*





My husband, Peter, Francis carefully copied his favorite drawing  
from the Vatican, June 27, 2011

*Francis*  
Francis, October 15, 2011

# INTRODUCTION

“The future of the world and of the Church passes through the family,” observed St. John Paul II, whom Pope Francis called “the Pope of the Family.” Recognizing the vital role of families in the world, the Knights of Columbus has dedicated its 17<sup>th</sup> Orderwide prayer program to the Holy Family, with the intention of strengthening Catholic families and their prayer lives.

The featured image for this program is an etching of the Holy Family by Giovanni Balestra (1774-1842). The original etching, based on a painting by Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato (1609-1685), is housed in the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome.

The images were blessed by Pope Francis on June 29, 2015, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, through the auspices of the Almoner of His Holiness, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski. Under the guidance of the state deputies, these framed images are currently on pilgrimage from council to council throughout each jurisdiction.

The inauguration ceremony of the Holy Family Prayer Program was conducted August 4, 2015, at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Convention in Philadelphia, a few weeks before that city hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families, held for the first time in the United States. The ceremony was presided over by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia. After a procession of state deputies carrying this Holy Family image, Archbishop Chaput prayed, “Jesus, Mary and Joseph: as we Knights of Columbus carry your image throughout our communities, may your example, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, lead all families who look upon this image of you, to become homes of communion, of prayer and of love.”

The Order’s first prayer program featuring a sacred image was held in 1979, honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. Over the years, the Blessed Mother has been honored by her Knights under her various titles, including: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of the New Advent, Our Lady of the Rosary, and Our Lady of Charity. Images of the Divine Mercy have also been featured, and the Holy Family was chosen once before, in 1993-94, for the International Year of the Family.

These Orderwide, rosary-based programs have brought together more than 17 million participants for some 147,000 prayer services conducted at local councils and parishes.







## PRAYER SERVICE

*Please stand. During the Opening Hymn, the blessed image of the Holy Family may be carried in procession and put in a place of honor.*

### Opening Hymn

*Sing of Mary*



1. Sing of Mar - y pure and low - ly, Vir - gin - moth - er  
 2. Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, In the home at  
 3. Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; Glo - ry be to



un - de - filed, Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly,  
 Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry  
 God the Son; Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it;



Who be - came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of  
 Love en - dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the  
 Glo - ry to the Three in One. From the heart of



fair - est moth - er, God the Lord who came to earth,  
 love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,  
 bless - ed Mar - y, From all saints the song as - cends,



Word made flesh, our ver - y broth - er,  
 Forth to preach, and heal, and suf - fer,  
 And the Church, the strain re - ech - oes



Takes our na - ture by his birth.  
 Till on Cal - va - ry he died.  
 Un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

## Greeting

Leader: As we gather under the protection  
of the Holy Family,  
let us beseech God,  
the Father of every family,  
to open our hearts  
to a deeper experience of his love.

**All: In the name of the Father, ✠  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

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.**

*Please be seated.*

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

*Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*

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.

**R** Thanks be to God.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5*

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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



## Second Reading

*Ephesians 5:2a, 25-31; 6:1-4*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. *Honor your father and mother.* This is the first commandment with a promise, *that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth.* Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**R** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**℟̕ Glory to you, O Lord.**

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**℟̕ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

*A reflective pause is recommended after each  
papal excerpt is read aloud.*

# Catechesis of St. John Paul II

## *Familiaris Consortio, 21*

The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason too it can and should be called “the domestic church.”<sup>1</sup>

All members of the family, each according to his or her own gift, have the grace and responsibility of building, day by day, the communion of persons, making the family “a school of deeper humanity”<sup>2</sup>: this happens where there is care and love for the little ones, the sick, the aged; where there is mutual service every day; when there is a sharing of goods, of joys and of sorrows.

A fundamental opportunity for building such a communion is constituted by the educational exchange between parents and children<sup>3</sup> in which each gives and receives. By means of love, respect and obedience toward their parents, children offer their specific and irreplaceable contribution to the construction of an authentically human and Christian family.<sup>4</sup> They will be aided in this if parents exercise their unrenounceable authority as a true and proper “ministry,” that is, as a service to the human and Christian well-being of their children, and in particular as a service aimed at helping them acquire a truly responsible freedom, and if parents maintain a living awareness of the “gift” they continually receive from their children.



## *Redemptoris Custos, 7*

At the culmination of the history of salvation, when God reveals his love for humanity through the gift of the Word, it is precisely the marriage of Mary and Joseph that brings to realization in full “freedom” the “spousal gift of self” in receiving and expressing such a love.<sup>5</sup> “In this great undertaking which is the renewal of all things in Christ, marriage — it too purified and renewed — becomes a new

reality, a sacrament of the New Covenant. ... The Savior began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union, wherein is manifested his all-powerful will to purify and sanctify the family — that sanctuary of love and cradle of life."<sup>6</sup>

How much the family of today can learn from this! "The essence and role of the family are in the final analysis specified by love. Hence the family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the Church his bride."<sup>7</sup> This being the case, it is in the Holy Family, the original "Church in miniature,"<sup>8</sup> that every Christian family must be reflected. "Through God's mysterious design, it was in that family that the Son of God spent long years of a hidden life. It is therefore the prototype and example for all Christian families."<sup>9</sup>



*Familiaris Consortio, 52*

To the extent in which the Christian family accepts the Gospel and matures in faith, it becomes an evangelizing community. Let us listen again to Paul VI: "The family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates. In a family that is conscious of this mission, all the members evangelize and are evangelized. The parents not only communicate the Gospel to their children, but from their children they can themselves receive the same Gospel as deeply lived by them. And such a family becomes the evangelizer of many other families, and of the neighborhood of which it forms part."<sup>10</sup> ...

The future of evangelization depends in great part on the Church of the home. This apostolic mission of the family is rooted in Baptism and receives from the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage new strength to transmit the faith, to sanctify and transform our present society according to God's plan.

*Please stand.*

## Intercessions

*Leader:* For the Church, the sacrament of salvation for every family, that she may continue to witness boldly to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who was made known to us through the intimate communion of mother, father and child. Through the intercession of the Holy Family, we pray to the Lord.

**℟ Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* For all ordained ministers and consecrated religious, that those chosen by God for a religious vocation may seek holiness, and that our families may encourage many more young men and women to respond to God's call. Through the intercession of the Holy Family, we pray to the Lord. **℟**

*Leader:* For married couples, families and single people, that they may bear witness to the truths of the Catholic faith and the beauty of God's plan for life and love. Through the intercession of the Holy Family, we pray to the Lord. **℟**

*Leader:* For Christians who suffer persecution in the Middle East, the land where the Holy Family dwelt, that through the Order's Christian Refugee Relief Fund they may find comfort and assistance. Through the intercession of the Holy Family, we pray to the Lord. **℟**

*Leader:* For all those in elected office, that they will enact laws and policies that uphold the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death; the dignity of marriage as the permanent, faithful and fruitful union of a man and a woman; and religious liberty for all. Through the intercession of the Holy Family, we pray to the Lord. **℟**

*Leader:* For the cause for canonization of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, that this holy priest who cared so deeply for families may soon be raised to the honors of the altar. Through the intercession of the Holy Family, we pray to the Lord. **℟**

*Leader:* For our personal intentions (*pause*). Through the intercession of the Holy Family, we pray to the Lord. **℟**

# THE MOST HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*Please kneel or sit.*

## Sign of the Cross

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

## Apostles' Creed

**All:** I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.



## Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

All: **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.**

## Hail Mary

*Pray Three Times*

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: **Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

## Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

All: **As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

# I. THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD



Leader: The first Joyful Mystery,  
the Annunciation of the Lord.

Mary grew up in a family, the daughter of Joachim and Anne in the town of Nazareth. Through the message of the angel Gabriel, God approached her with a startling proposal for her future family life. God also had a personal plan for Joseph, her betrothed. With open hearts, they each said “yes,” and together embarked on the fulfillment of their destiny as a married couple. Through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, their family is now linked in some fashion to every family for all time.<sup>11</sup>

*Through the intercession of the Holy Family, let us ask for the grace to receive the presence of Jesus into our lives with the bold “yes” of Mary and Joseph.*

## Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: 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.**

## Hail Mary

*Pray Ten Times*

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

## Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

## II. THE VISITATION OF MARY



Leader: The second Joyful Mystery,  
the Visitation of Mary.

The two women were expecting babies at the same time, so Mary of Nazareth set out to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth, who had also received the gift of a new life. Elizabeth and Mary were blessed with the extended family bonds that are a deeply human joy. In wonder during this extraordinary Visitation, the two women also witnessed the first encounter of love between the two unborn babies, Jesus and John. In our own extended families, every parent, sibling, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent and grandchild is called to respond to that communion of love that is our destiny in Christ.

*Through the intercession of the Holy Family, let us ask for the open heart of Mary, the open arms of Elizabeth, and the interior vision of John the Baptist.*

## Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

All: 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.

## Hail Mary

*Pray Ten Times*

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

### III. THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Leader: The third Joyful Mystery,  
the Nativity of the Lord.

The birth of a child is a blessed event in the life of every family. Every moment of that precious event is inscribed in the hearts of the mother and father, siblings and extended family members. For Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, the extraordinary events surrounding the birth of their baby included the discomfort and uncertainty of a strange setting in Bethlehem. And yet because they were with Jesus, they were home.

*Through the intercession of the Holy Family, let us ask for the grace of the Incarnation in our hearts, so that our homes may be places where others can encounter his life and love.*



## Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

All: 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.

## Hail Mary

*Pray Ten Times*

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

## IV. THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE



Leader: The fourth Joyful Mystery,  
the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple.

With joy in their hearts over the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph presented their child to God within the community of faith that had sustained them all their lives. Dependent upon the beauty and rituals they had received as members of God's Chosen People, the new parents entrusted the unfolding of their own family life to the "family of families" destined for the fullness of revelation.

*Through the intercession of the Holy Family, let us ask for the grace to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Church, the "salvation, which [God] prepared in sight of all the peoples."<sup>12</sup>*

## Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

All: 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.

## Hail Mary

*Pray Ten Times*

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

## V. THE FINDING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE



Leader: The fifth Joyful Mystery,  
the Finding of the Lord in the Temple.

Every child is a unique and unrepeatable gift, with an interior life open to mystery and experience that his or her parents cannot always share. Jesus' time in Jerusalem manifested the Father's mystery of the Son's destiny for the salvation of the world. In their fear and anxiety for their missing child, Mary and Joseph each deepened their original "yes" to God's plan for their parenthood, entrusted with a life they did not create themselves. When they found Jesus in the temple, they wondered anew at the growth and mystery of Jesus.

*Through the intercession of the Holy Family, let us ask for the grace to be open to the Lord's personal plan for each of the young people in our care.*

## Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

All: **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.**

## Hail Mary

*Pray Ten Times*

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee:  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: **Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

## Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

All: **As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## Salve Regina

**All:** Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope!  
To thee do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve.  
To thee do we send up our sighs,  
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
thine eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this our exile  
show unto us the blessed fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

**Leader:** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**All:** That we may be made worthy  
of the promises of Christ.

## Prayer

**Leader:** Let us pray.

**All:** O God, whose only begotten Son,  
by his life, death and resurrection,  
has purchased for us  
the rewards of eternal life;  
grant, we beseech thee,  
that meditating on these mysteries  
of the Most Holy Rosary  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
we may imitate what they contain  
and obtain what they promise.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please be seated.*



# Catechesis of Pope Benedict XVI

*Angelus*

December 27, 2009

The first witnesses of Christ's birth, the shepherds, found themselves not only before the Infant Jesus but also a small family: mother, father and newborn son. God had chosen to reveal himself by being born into a human family and the human family thus became an icon of God! God is the Trinity, he is a communion of love; so is the family despite all the differences that exist between the Mystery of God and his human creature, an expression that reflects the unfathomable Mystery of God as Love. In marriage the man and the woman, created in God's image, become "one flesh,"<sup>13</sup> that is a communion of love that generates new life. The human family, in a certain sense, is an icon of the Trinity because of its interpersonal love and the fruitfulness of this love.



*Angelus*

December 27, 2009

Having come into the world, into the heart of a family, God shows that this institution is a sure path on which to encounter and come to know him, as well as an ongoing call to work for the unity of all people centered on love. Hence one of the greatest services that we Christians can render our fellow human beings is to offer them our serene and unhesitating witness as a family founded on the marriage of a man and a woman, safeguarding and promoting the family, since it is of supreme importance for the present and future of humanity. Indeed, the family is the best school at which to learn to live out those values which give dignity to the person and greatness to peoples. In the family sorrows and

joys are shared, since all feel enveloped in the love that prevails at home, a love that stems from the mere fact of belonging to the same family. I ask God that in your homes you may always breathe this love of total self-giving and faithfulness that Jesus brought to the world with his birth, nurturing and strengthening it with daily prayer, the constant practice of the virtues, reciprocal understanding and mutual respect.



*Angelus*  
December 31, 2006

The Holy Family of Nazareth is truly the “prototype” of every Christian family which, united in the Sacrament of Marriage and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, is called to carry out the wonderful vocation and mission of being the living cell not only of society but also of the Church, a sign and instrument of unity for the entire human race.

Let us now invoke for every family, especially families in difficulty, the protection of Mary Most Holy and of St. Joseph. May they sustain such families so that they can resist the disintegrating forces of a certain contemporary culture which undermines the very foundations of the family institution. May they help Christian families to be, in every part of the world, living images of God’s love.

*Please stand.*

## Litany of the Holy Family

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

God, the Father of Heaven,

**Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**Have mercy on us.**

God, the Holy Spirit,

**Have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God,

**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**℟ Pray for us...**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

most worthy of our veneration **℟**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

called the Holy Family from all time **℟**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

son, mother, and head of the Holy Family **℟**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

divine child, pure spouse and chaste spouse **℟**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

restorers of fallen families **℟**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

image of the Blessed Trinity while here on earth **℟**

Holy Family, tested by the greatest of difficulties **R**  
Holy Family, with much suffering  
    on the journey to Bethlehem **R**  
Holy Family, without a welcome in Bethlehem **R**  
Holy Family, visited by the poor shepherds **R**  
Holy Family, obliged to live in a stable **R**  
Holy Family, praised by the angels **R**  
Holy Family, venerated by the wise men from the East **R**  
Holy Family, greeted by the pious Simeon in the temple **R**  
Holy Family, persecuted and exiled to a foreign country **R**  
Holy Family, hidden and unknown in Nazareth **R**  
Holy Family, faithful in the observance of divine laws **R**  
Holy Family, perfect model of the Christian family **R**  
Holy Family, center of peace and concord **R**  
Holy Family, whose protector is a model of paternal care **R**  
Holy Family, whose mother  
    is a model of maternal diligence **R**  
Holy Family, whose Divine Child  
    is a model of filial obedience **R**  
Holy Family, poor in material goods,  
    but rich in divine blessings **R**  
Holy Family, as nothing in the eyes of men,  
    but so great in heaven **R**  
Holy Family, our support in life and our hope in death **R**  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph **R**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**hear us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Christ, hear us.  
**Christ, graciously hear us.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O God of infinite goodness  
and kindness, give us the grace  
to venerate Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
so that, imitating them in this life,  
we may enjoy with them the life to come.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# Catechesis of Pope Francis

*General Audience*

April 29, 2015

At the beginning of his Gospel, John the Evangelist narrates the episode of the wedding at Cana, at which the Virgin Mary and Jesus were present with his first disciples.<sup>14</sup> Jesus not only participated at that wedding, but “saved the feast” with the miracle of wine! Thus, the first of his great signs, with which he reveals his glory, he performed in the context of a wedding, and it was an act of great sympathy for that new family, entreated by Mary’s motherly care. This reminds us of the Book of Genesis, when God completes his work of creation and makes his masterpiece; the masterpiece is man and woman. And here at a marriage, at a wedding feast, Jesus begins his own miracles with this masterpiece: a man and a woman. Thus Jesus teaches us that the masterpiece of society is the family: a man and a woman who love each other! This is the masterpiece!

...The most persuasive testimony of the blessing of Christian marriage is the good life of Christian spouses and of the family. There is no better way to speak of the beauty of the sacrament! A marriage consecrated by God safeguards that bond between man and woman that God has blessed from the very creation of the world; and it is the source of peace and goodness for the entire lifetime of the marriage and family.



*World Meeting of Families*

*Festival of Families*

September 26, 2015 (Philadelphia)

All the love God has in himself, all the beauty God has in himself, all the truth God has in himself, he entrusts to the family. A family is truly a family when it is capable of opening its arms to receive all that love. ...

God came into the world in a family. And he could do this because that family was a family with a heart open to love, a family whose doors were open. We can think of Mary, a young woman. She couldn't believe it: "How can this be?"<sup>15</sup> But once it was explained to her, she obeyed. We think of Joseph, full of dreams for making a home; then along comes this surprise that he doesn't understand. He accepts, he obeys. And in the loving obedience of this woman, Mary, and this man, Joseph, we have a family into which God comes. God always knocks on the doors of our hearts. He likes to do that. He goes out from within. But do you know what he likes best of all? To knock on the doors of families. And to see families that are united, families that love, families that bring up their children, educating them and helping them to grow, families that build a society of goodness, truth and beauty.



*World Meeting of Families*  
*Closing Mass*  
September 27, 2015 (Philadelphia)

May our children find in us models and incentives to communion, not division! May our children find in us men and women capable of joining others in bringing to full flower all the good seeds that the Father has sown! ...

Would that all of us could be open to miracles of love to benefit our own families and all the families of the world, and thus overcome the scandal of a narrow, petty love, closed in on itself, impatient of others! I leave you with a question for each of you to answer — because I said the word “impatient”: at home do we shout at one another or do we speak with love and tenderness? This is a good way of measuring our love.

*Please stand.*

# Prayer to the Holy Family

*Angelus*  
by Pope Francis (adapted)  
December 29, 2013

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendor 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.**





## PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

Leader: Let us pray for the Pope.

**All:** Lord, source of eternal life and truth,  
give to your shepherd,  
our Holy Father Pope Francis,  
a spirit of courage and right judgment,  
a spirit of knowledge and love.

By governing with fidelity  
those entrusted to his care, may he,  
as successor of the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ,  
build your Church into a sacrament  
of unity, love and peace for all the world  
and may we, in faithful communion with him,  
always seek to further the pastoral mission  
of your Church.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Final Prayer**

*World Meeting of Families Prayer  
Philadelphia, 2015*

**All:        God and Father of us all,  
              in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,  
              you have made us  
              your sons and daughters  
              in the family of the Church.**

**May your grace and love  
help our families  
in every part of the world  
be united to one another  
with fidelity to the Gospel.**

**May the example of the Holy Family,  
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,  
guide all families,  
especially those most troubled,  
to be homes of communion and prayer  
and to always seek your truth  
and live in your love.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
pray for us!***

## NOTES & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- <sup>1</sup> *Lumen Gentium*, 11.
- <sup>2</sup> *Gaudium et Spes*, 52.
- <sup>3</sup> Cf. Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20-21.
- <sup>4</sup> *Gaudium et Spes*, 48.
- <sup>5</sup> Cf. Discourses of January 9, 16, February 20, 1980.
- <sup>6</sup> Paul VI, Discourse to the “Équipes Notre-Dame” Movement, 7.
- <sup>7</sup> *Familiaris Consortio*, 17.
- <sup>8</sup> *Familiaris Consortio*, 49; cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 11; *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 11.
- <sup>9</sup> *Familiaris Consortio*, 85.
- <sup>10</sup> *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 71.
- <sup>11</sup> Cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 22.
- <sup>12</sup> Lk 2:31.
- <sup>13</sup> Gen 2:24.
- <sup>14</sup> Cf. Jn 2:1-11.
- <sup>15</sup> Lk 1:34.

The image of the Holy Family featured in this prayer program is an etching by Giovanni Balestra (1774-1842), based on a painting by Giovanni Battista Salvi da Sassoferrato (1609-1685). The original etching is housed at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

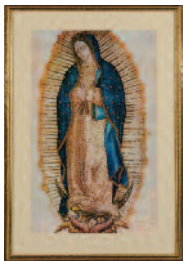
*Sing of Mary* © Onelicense.net A-721780

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America* © 1970, 1986, 1992, 1998, 2001 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by an information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Original meditations on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary written by Lumen Catechetical Consultants, [www.lifeaftersunday.com](http://www.lifeaftersunday.com).

Litany of the Holy Family adapted from a text by the Missionaries of the Holy Family. © Missionaries of the Holy Family, 1-888-484-9945, [www.msf-america.org](http://www.msf-america.org).

Photo Credits: pg. 1: Carrying framed images of the Holy Family, State Deputies process from the Opening Mass of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Supreme Convention in Philadelphia, Aug. 4, 2015 (Knights of Columbus photo/Matthew Barrick); pg. 32: Pope Francis walks near an image of the Holy Family during the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Sept. 27, 2015 (CNS photo/Rick Musacchio, *Tennessee Register*). The images depicting the Joyful Mysteries are all mosaics by Father Marko Rupnik, S.J., and Centro Aletti, [www.centroaletti.com](http://www.centroaletti.com). “The Annunciation of the Lord” (pg. 12); “The Visitation of Mary” (pg. 14); and the “The Nativity of the Lord” (pg. 15) from the Redemptor Hominis Church in the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, Washington, D.C. (2015). “The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple” (pg. 18) from the Infirmary Chapel in the St. Peter Canisius Residence of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Rome (2012) and “The Finding of the Lord in the Temple” from the Crypt of the Shrine of St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy (2009).



1979-80  
Our Lady of Guadalupe



1981-82  
Immaculate Conception



1984-85  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help



1986-87  
Our Lady of Czestochowa



1988-89  
Our Lady of Pochaiv



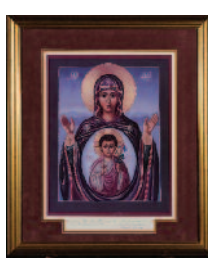
1990-91  
Our Lady of the Assumption



1993-94  
Holy Family



1995-96  
Our Lady of Guadalupe



1997-98  
Our Lady of the New Advent



1999-2000  
Millennium Cross



2000-01  
Our Lady of Guadalupe



2002-03  
Our Lady of the Rosary



2003-04  
Divine Mercy



2007-08  
Our Lady of Charity



2011-13  
Our Lady of Guadalupe



2013-14  
Immaculate Conception



2015-16  
Holy Family

*“The masterpiece of society is the family:  
a man and a woman who love each other!”*

– Pope Francis  
April 29, 2015



Please return this booklet to the leader  
so that it can be used by others at future prayer services.  
To request copies for personal use, or to download a PDF, please visit  
[kofc.org/holyfamily](http://kofc.org/holyfamily) or call 203-752-4161.