



LITURGICAL RESOURCE

INTERCESSIONS FOR THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

LITURGICAL IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

INDEX OF FAMILY BLESSINGS FROM
THE *BOOK OF BLESSINGS*

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

*This resource can also be found on the
Amoris Laetitia Family Year page on the diocesan website,
www.dioceseofscranton.org.*

SUGGESTED INTERCESSIONS FOR THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER DURING THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY



The following intercessions, arranged by specific topics, could be included in the Universal Prayer throughout the Year of the Family. Consider using a different intercession each weekend throughout the year.

Families in General

That as the Church observes the Year of the Family, we may support the needs of all families through the giving of our time, care and compassion, we pray to the Lord.

That through this observance of the Year of the Family, all families may recognize the value of faith in raising their children and see in the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the model of family virtues, we pray to the Lord.

For leaders of nations, that they may respect the bond of individual families and foster the unity of the human family across nations and cultures, we pray to the Lord.

That during the Year of the Family, all families may recognize that quality time spent with each other is more important and more memorable than material things, we pray to the Lord.

Parents

For all mothers, that they may be strengthened in their vocation to care for their children by following the example of Mary, the Mother of God, we pray to the Lord.

For all fathers, that they may be strengthened in their vocation to care for their children by following the example of Saint Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus, we pray to the Lord.

That parents may be inspired by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by the support of this community to instill a deep faith and love of God in the hearts of their children, we pray to the Lord.

For parents of infants, young children, and teens, that they may exercise patience as they raise their children with love and kindness, we pray to the Lord.

Children

That through the nurturing relationships with their parents, children may grow in wisdom and in the love of God, we pray to the Lord.

That by recognizing the trust and dependence of children for their parents, we may learn to place our trust in God and rely on divine providence, especially for the difficult moments in our lives, we pray to the Lord.

That we may mimic the innocence of children and rejoice in the goodness of God in the simple and ordinary moments of our lives, we pray to the Lord.

Grandparents

That children may learn to cherish every moment spent with their grandparents, and that in turn, grandparents may experience the innocence and joy of youth in their grandchildren, we pray to the Lord.

For grandparents, that they may not be forgotten or neglected, but that parents will strive to involve them in the lives of their grandchildren in whatever capacity they are able, we pray to the Lord.

Siblings

That during this Year of the Family, siblings may grow in a bond of support and love and learn to forgive any past wrongs or misunderstandings, we pray to the Lord.

Newly Engaged and Newly Married

That couples who are newly engaged may grow each day in harmony and wisdom as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage, we pray to the Lord.

For all who are newly married, (especially N. and N. from our parish community) that they may shine as witnesses to the love of God and the ways of heaven, we pray to the Lord.

Expectant Families

That those mothers who are with child may be supported by their loved ones and warm friends, we pray to the Lord.

For families that are expecting, that they may receive the gifts of patient endurance and joyful hope as they anticipate the birth of their loved one, we pray to the Lord.

Broken Families

That families broken apart by abuse, misunderstandings, and mistrust may seek the healing power of the Holy Spirit in repairing relationships, we pray to the Lord.

Blended Families

For blended families, that a spirit of love may overcome any challenges of coming together and adjusting to new relationships, we pray to the Lord.

Single and Divorced Parents

For all single and divorced parents, that God may support them and their children through the efforts of this community of faith, we pray to the Lord.

Sundays

That during this Year of the Family, family members may reclaim Sunday as a day of rest, prayer and undivided attention to each other, we pray to the Lord.

Intergenerational Families

That during this Year of the Family, family members of different generations may recognize the richness they bring to each other in handing on and creating new family traditions, we pray to the Lord.

Migrant or Separated Families

For families that are forced to leave their homeland, that as they seek a better way of life, they may be welcomed and treated with dignity and respect, we pray to the Lord.

For families that are separated, that their loved ones may be safe from all harm, and that they may be reunited soon, we pray to the Lord.

Families Experiencing Recent Loss of a Loved One

For families grieving the loss of a loved one, that they may grow closer even in the midst of their grief and support each other through their listening and care, we pray to the Lord.

Families with Someone Terminally Ill

That families caring for someone who is terminally ill may cherish the time they have left with their loved one by recalling great memories and making new and lasting ones, we pray to the Lord.

Homeless Families

For families without a home, that God may keep them in safety, and that they may find shelter through the efforts of our community, we pray to the Lord.

Foster and Adoptive Families

That foster and adoptive parents may be signs of God's great compassion and love to their children, and that their children may grow in the wisdom and love of God, we pray to the Lord.

Parents Who Have Lost a Child

For parents who have lost a child, that God may grant them his healing and hope as they deal with such a great loss, we pray to the Lord.

Drug or Alcohol Abuse

For families plagued with alcohol or drug abuse, that they may have the patience and courage to overcome addiction and strengthen the bond of family relationships, we pray to the Lord.

For families torn apart by addiction, that their loved ones may find the help to recovery that they need so that healing may begin, we pray to the Lord.

For parents who bear the burden of guilt and sorrow over their children suffering from drug or alcohol abuse, that they may trust in the work of the Holy Spirit to support their loved ones and guide them to recovery, we pray to the Lord.

Financial Concerns

That parents anxious about financial concerns in raising their children may find the support they need through the efforts of both this parish and local community, we pray to the Lord.

That parents who are unemployed may find work that values their gifts and talents, and that they may receive a just compensation to support their families, we pray to the Lord.

Unity

For unity and peace in our families, that during this Year of the Family the forgiveness of grievances and harmony of roles may help strengthen the bonds between parents, children and siblings, we pray to the Lord.

Communication

For ever-growing communication among families, that honesty and mutual respect between parents and their children may bear fruit in lasting and healthy relationships, we pray to the Lord.

Mental Health

For those families with loved ones battling the challenges of mental health, despair, or depression, that they may have the courage to seek help for those suffering so that they may know God's comfort and forgiveness, we pray to the Lord.

Abuse

For all families, that during this Year of the Family, they may know God's love and share this love with kindness and consideration for one another, free from abuse and controlling behaviors, we pray to the Lord.

For families that experience domestic violence, that God may rid their household of abuse and help them to live safely in the peace of Christ, we pray to the Lord.

For the families of abuse victims, that their compassionate concern may affect healing and that their strong advocacy may bring about change within the Church and society, we pray to the Lord.

Quality Time

That during this Year of the Family, families may grow closer in love through efforts to spend quality time unplugged from technology and present to each other, we pray to the Lord.

Difficult Choices

For families forced to make difficult choices, that the Holy Spirit may help them discern what is the best decision for their well-being and health, we pray to the Lord.

Vocations

That families may support and encourage their children to pursue a vocation full of love of God and neighbor, especially a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, we pray to the Lord.

Family Meals

That family meals may be a time of great bonding between parents,

children and extended family, and that memories made and shared there will bear fruit in their outpouring of love to others, we pray to the Lord.

Those Without Families

That members of this community may reach out to those without immediate family and offer their love and time and give witness to the bond we share in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

LITURGICAL IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

Below are some ideas of having families involved in the celebration of Mass throughout the Year of the Family.



- During the season of Advent, invite different families to light the candles of the Advent wreath at each weekend Mass.
- Consider scheduling entire families to fill the liturgical ministries for certain weekend Masses
- Invite families to serve as ministers of hospitality and have them greet parishioners as they enter the church, distribute programs, assist parishioners in seating, and help take up the collection.
- During the singing of the Litany of the Saints at the Easter Vigil, invite families to carry pitchers of water to fill the baptismal font.
- At Christmas, invite a family to place the Infant Jesus in the nativity scene in church and then offer the Blessing of the Nativity Scene as found in the *Book of Blessings*.
- Provide the text for the Blessing of the Home as found in the *Book of Blessings* with a piece of chalk attached for families to bless their homes on the solemnity of the Epiphany
- Begin implementing Children's Liturgy of the Word at one or more of your Sunday Masses and provide resources for families to discuss the Sunday readings.

BLESSINGS FROM THE *BOOK OF BLESSINGS*

The Book of Blessings contains many different blessings for families at various stages. Consider offering these blessings either within Mass or outside of Mass throughout the Year of the Family. For a quick reference, the Book of Blessings contains:



- Blessing of Families and Members of Families
- Blessing of Married Couples
- Blessing of Children
- Blessing of Sons and Daughters
- Blessing of an Engaged Couple
- Blessing of Parents before Childbirth
- Blessing of a Mother before and after Childbirth
- Blessing of Parents after a Miscarriage
- Blessing of Parents and an Adopted Child
- Blessing on an Occasion of a Birthday
- Blessing of Elderly People Confined to Their Homes

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY



Title

Blest Are Those Who Love You
Come, Sing a Home and Family
For the Beauty of the Earth
God of Eve and God of Mary/
God of Adam, God of Joseph
Let There Be Peace on Earth
Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly
Sound the Bell of Holy Freedom

Composer/Hymn Tune

Haugen
Hommerding
Pierpont/DIX
Porter
Miller/Jackson
Palmer/PLEADING SAVIOR
Ciferri/Gouin