

## **Family Prayers**

### **Prayer for a Blessed Married Life**

O Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for blessing our marriage through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. When we stood together before Your Holy Altar, we invited You to come and bless us. We claim Your Holy Presence in our marriage this day and every day. You are the Source of Love. Keep pouring Your love into us through the Holy Spirit. Help us to stay close to You. Help us to prefer one another in love, to consider it a privilege to be able to serve one another, til we see you face to face. Help us to be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as You have forgiven us. Never let the sun go down on our anger. Grant us always to see our own faults and not to judge each other. Open our eyes to the best in each other. Let patience reign supreme in our hearts. Give us hope to brighten life, and joy to lighten sorrow. May our home be a haven where spiritual values are treasured and holy principles are modeled. Gladden us with Your grace and peace that with one heart we may praise and glorify You. Amen.

### **Prayer for Strength of a Marriage**

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your presence You blessed the wedding in Cana and showed us that You are the true priest of mystical and pure marriage. We thank You for the day on which You joined us in the Sacrament of Marriage. Lord, continue to bless and enrich our marriage in love, companionship, mutual support, oneness of heart and progress in faith and life. Protect our holy marriage from sin, evil and danger. Nurture between us the spirit of understanding, the spirit of forgiveness and the spirit of peace, that no resentment, quarrel or other problem may cause us to stumble and fall. Grant us to see our own faults and not to judge each other. Keep our bond of love always new. Gladden our lives with the joys of marriage, that with one heart we may praise and glorify You. Amen.

### **Prayer of a Wife for Her Husband**

Dear Lord, I am so blessed to be married to the man I call my husband. “Husband” just doesn’t seem to convey all that he is to me. He is my soul-mate, my lover, my best friend, my confidant, my companion. There’s no one else I’d rather laugh or cry with—in good times or bad. How grateful I am that You have brought us together. Yet I am only human, Lord. Sometimes I get angry or upset at something he has said or done—or hasn’t said or done—and I lose my patience and my temper. Sometimes I concentrate on the qualities or habits I wish I could change rather than on his best qualities and endearing habits. Lord, at those times, help me to remember why I love him so much and to let go of the rest. Amen.

### **Prayer of a Single Parent**

Lord, Jesus Christ my God, who carried Your own Holy Cross, grant me the strength, patience and wisdom to bear the burdens of parenthood. Fulfill in me anything I may be lacking and grant that through my prayers and those of Your Holy Mother, our family may grow closer to You and achieve a life in Christ. Amen.

### **Parent's Prayer for a Child's First Day at School**

Dear God, here is (name), ready for her first day at school. She has been counting the days. She is so thrilled. Be with her today when she goes into unfamiliar rooms, when she sees new faces (make them kind faces!), when she stands in the lunch line, when she is on the playground. Keep her close to You as she learns and grows and makes friends. Protect her from harm. Watch over her on the way to and from school. And as she becomes part of a larger world, help me to let her go and gain experience that she will need to become a responsible part of Your creation. Amen.

### **A Child's Morning Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank you for the bright sunlight of a new day. As You made the sun to rise in the heavens, so come to shine in my life today. For You are the Light of the world. Guide me, direct me, lead me that I may do Your holy will and please You in all that I do this day. Bless my parents, teachers and all who care for me. Amen.

### **Prayer of a Child for Parents**

Lord and Savior, You have taught us to honor our fathers and mothers, and to show love and obedience toward them. From the depth of my heart I fervently pray to You, Jesus, my God: hear my prayer. Bless my parents who have raised me up with the help of Your grace. Protect them from evil, harm and sickness. Grant them faith, health and joy. Bless all their works that they may give You honor and glory all the days of their lives. Amen.

**Praying with Toddlers** Start with simple, holy actions like making the sign of the Cross, kissing icons of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, and helping your children identify images of angels and other holy figures. Next, help your children lead the family in mealtime prayers: let them be spontaneous and take their time to think it out. To help them along, suggest giving thanks and blessing loved ones: "Dear Jesus, thank you for this good spaghetti that Mommy made. I love her. Amen"; "God, bless Grandma and Grampa, Yia Yia and Papou, and all of my friends. Amen." Finally, remember that our children are highly sensitive and very spiritual—talk to them and lead them from the youngest ages about spiritual things. They are hungry for God, and they know more about Him than we oftentimes think!