

Pray this prayer service together, or if that's not possible, pray it on your own for your family's intentions.



# Family Prayer Service

"THE FAMILY THAT  
PRAYS TOGETHER,  
STAYS TOGETHER"  
FR PEYTON



## BEGIN BY LIGHTING A CANDLE

(or each member of your family can light one candle each)

### OPENING PRAYER:

Father God, we thank You for the gift of our family, for each individual here (*and for those not here with us*). We thank You that You have given us each other, so that together we can grow and develop into the best versions of ourselves. We acknowledge that we have not always loved each other as we should, or treated each other with respect and love. Lord God, we need You in the heart of our family, because we are weak and frail, and need Your love to sustain us and unite us. Show us how to love each other, and through our family's love, be an example to those around us, that they may see in us a spark of Your Divine Love.

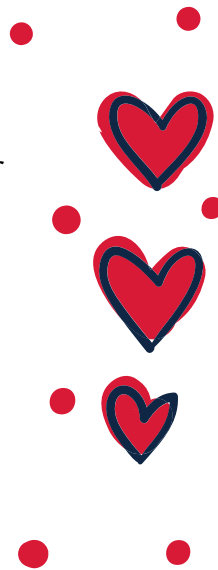
***Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph - pray for us!***



### SCRIPTURE

Read the following passage of Scripture aloud and take some time to reflect in silence on it.

- Where can you see this love evident in your family?
- Where is it lacking?
- Can you put your name in instead of "love" in each sentence, honestly?
- What are you personally challenged by?



*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

**1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 8**

**TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO SHARE (OR JOURNAL) YOUR THOUGHTS.**

### OUR FAMILY PRAYERS:

Allow some time for each member of the family to pray out loud for any intentions they have. At the end, pray a Hail Mary (or a decade of the rosary) together for all these intentions, entrusting them to Our Lady.



THE BLESSING - KARI JOBE



LOVE NEVER FAILS - BRANDON HEATH



THE FAMILY PRAYER SONG - MARANATHA

- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

## WHY NOT START A NEW NEW YEAR'S TRADITION?



# Blessings Jar

If you don't have a jar, get a notebook and write your blessings in that instead!

## WHAT IS A BLESSING JAR?

Blessings jars are a practical and fun way to keep a record of the things that you're thankful for on a daily basis. Whenever you recognize something that is a "blessing" in your life throughout the year, just write it on a piece of paper, fold it up, and stick it in the Blessing Jar. It might be as simple as a good chat with a friend, a hug, a gift, having the ability to play sports, having food on your table....

You can do this alone, or with your family, or even your youth group. Then decide how often you want to empty out the jar out to count your blessings: maybe on New Year's Eve, each month, on a special Feastday, or, if you're having an especially tough day, you may just want to empty out the contents of the blessings jar right then and be reminded of God how is blessing you each and every day! It will be a great reminder of God's faithfulness... in times of joy as well as in times of struggle.



## HOW TO MAKE A BLESSING JAR

- Choose a large jar (or use a notebook or box if you can't source a jar)
- Stick the Blessings Label on the jar.
- Choose a scripture passage if you'd like (see next page for ideas), punch one end and tie to your jar with string.
- Decorate the jar with stickers, washi tape, ribbon, string - whatever way you like! (*Google Blessing Jars and you'll get lots of ideas!*)
- Write your first blessings idea on a small note card, fold it and put it in the jar.
- Make sure you have paper and pen near the jar to make the process easier each time you see a blessing you want to record!
- Enjoy the process and choose to be thankful every single day
- Repeat as often as you like



"MAY HIS FAVOUR BE UPON YOU AND A THOUSAND GENERATIONS,  
AND YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN"  THE BLESSING - KARI JOBE

- ASCEND YOUTH MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

## BLESSING JAR SUGGESTIONS FOR LABELS



***or create your own!***

And my God will supply  
every need of yours  
according to his riches in  
glory in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:19

Every good gift and every perfect  
gift is from above, coming down  
from the Father of lights with  
whom there is no variation or  
shadow due to change.  
James 1:17

The Lord bless you and  
keep you; the Lord make his  
face to shine upon you and  
be gracious to you; the Lord  
lift up his countenance upon  
you and give you peace.  
Numbers 6:24-26

Fear not, for I am with you; be  
not dismayed, for I am your  
God; I will strengthen you, I will  
help you, I will uphold you with  
my righteous right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10

And from his fullness we  
have all received, grace  
upon grace.  
John 1:16

Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, who  
has blessed us in Christ with  
every spiritual blessing in the  
heavenly places,  
Ephesians 1:3