



CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

On Sunday, December 29th, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. At all Masses, we will pray to consecrate our families under the protection of the Holy Family. A major aspect of this program is a serious and meaningful preparation for at least a week prior to the consecration. It is suggested that each parish family pray together each day for a week before the consecration. Four suggested steps before praying the Consecration to the Holy Family are as follows:

- † **Discuss the importance** of this consecration as a family and why you are doing it.
- † Each member of your family is encouraged to go to **the sacrament of reconciliation**.
- † As a family, **choose something to fast from**. The fast can be for at least a week. As our physical bodies are drawn to things of this world, it is strongly encouraged that you fast from something you would normally do or consume. Fasting helps to discipline our minds and hearts to refrain from secular activities and be more focused on God.
- † **Prepare for the commitment** you are making. Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. You have chosen a way of life for your family. You and your family are consciously choosing to be a beacon of light of God's love through His Church.

On Sunday, December 29th copies of this prayer will be in all the pews.

PRAYER FOR THE CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

○ Lord Jesus,
you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.
There you grew in age, wisdom and grace
as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer
We entrust our family to you.

○ Blessed Mary,
you are the Mother of our Savior.
At Nazareth you cared for Jesus
and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.
We entrust our family to you.

○ Saint Joseph,
you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary,
and gave us a model of fatherhood
while showing us the dignity of work.
We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family,
We consecrate ourselves and our family to you.
May we be completely united
in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life.
Help us to grow in virtue,
to forgive one another from our hearts,
and to live in peace all our days.
Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer,
diligent in our work, and generous to those in need.
May our home, O Holy Family,
truly become a domestic church
where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!