

Living FAITH Family Edition



Preparing For Family Prayer

SPACE

To create your family prayer space:

- Gather around the table;
- Clear the space of all distractions;
- Engage in the prayer either before or after sharing a family meal at the table.

CONNECTING

To encourage connection, establish this space as:

- Phone and other technology free (except to use the #blessed Sway or to read the PDF);
- "Pay out" and judgement free.

SHARING

When it is time to share:

- Each member of the family feels invited to share freely and uninterrupted;
- Listen actively and openly to each other;
- Affirm each other;
- Provide the option to "pass" if someone would prefer not to share.

PRAYING

Once you are ready to get started:

- Chose a member of the family to lead the prayer session;
- Chose a member of the family to read the Gospel;
- Chose the discussion question you would like to engage with.

PRAYERS OF INTENTION

You might like to offer prayers for:

- Immediate needs in your household;
- Relatives who may be sick or in need;
- Broader community (homeless, those in CoVid lockdown, poor, sick etc)
- Global concerns (war, famine, drought etc)

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Year B Family Edition

“Rejoice and Be Glad”

WE CONNECT

Now that we are back at school and back at work, who was someone we were really grateful to see? How did you let them know that you were happy to see them?

God of Love;
We are truly grateful for the gift of each one of us,
And for the many ways You bless our family.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (1:36-59)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

A short time later Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's home, where she greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her baby moved within her.

The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth. Then in a loud voice she said to Mary: God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have. Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, my baby became happy and moved within me. The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise.

Mary's Song of Praise

Mary said:

With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. He cares for me, his humble servant. From now on, all people will say God has blessed me. God All-Powerful has done great things for me, and his name is holy. He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him. The Lord has used his powerful arm to scatter those who are proud. He drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of power. God gives the hungry good things to eat, and sends the rich away with nothing. He helps his servant Israel and is always merciful to his people. The Lord made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his family forever!

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months. Then she went back home.



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WE SHARE

Choose one of the following discussions to engage with:

It can be really difficult in the midst of all this uncertainty to feel grateful. This means it is even more important now put aside the thoughts about what we have missed out on, or that has been taken away and be like Mary, giving praise and thanks to God for all that we have been given. What is something that you are really grateful for?

Now is a great time for us as a family to be like Elizabeth and her child - rejoicing and being glad for the small joys and successes that we experience everyday. What is something we have done really well as a family this week that we can rejoice and be glad about?

Both Mary and Elizabeth are very inspirational women of God. Who do you think you are most like? Who will you try to be most like this week?

Elizabeth, who sees the joy and the goodness in others and celebrates their successes?

Mary, who sees God's blessings in everything around her and takes the time to give thanks back to God?

WE OFFER

Each member of the family is invited to offer a prayer of intention.
(See the guide above).

We pray for(intention)... Lord, hear us.

When all intentions have been offered everyone says together:

Lord hear our prayer.

WE GIVE THANKS

Lord God of Justice,
We are so grateful for spending this time together in prayer and love knowing that when we gather for prayer You are there with us.
Thank you for the gift of each of us,
And help us to continue to appreciate how precious our family is.
Amen

"Let us run to Mary, and as her children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence."

- St Francis de Sales

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