

Holy Family Prayer Book

Prayers for Every Family



MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Foreword by Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan



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Contents

Foreword	9
A Brief History of the Missionaries of the Holy Family	10
Prayer for the Beatification of Father John Berthier and for His Intercession	11
Every Catholic Is a Missionary	12
Prayers to the Holy Family	13
Consecration to the Holy Family	15
Holy Family Prayer	16
Litany of the Holy Family	17
Novena to the Holy Family	21
Family Life	35
Family Morning Offering	37
Prayer for Renewing the Family	38
Prayer for Family Protection	40
Prayer for Missionaries	41
Prayer for Vocations	42
Family Life Rosary	43
How to Pray the Rosary	44
Preparatory Prayer	45
Apostles' Creed	45
Our Father / Hail Mary / Glory Be	46
O My Jesus (said after each Glory Be)	46

Contents (continued)

Joyful Mysteries (MONDAY AND SATURDAY)	47
Luminous Mysteries (THURSDAY)	48
Sorrowful Mysteries (TUESDAY AND FRIDAY)	49
Glorious Mysteries (WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY)	50
Hail, Holy Queen (closing rosary prayer)	51
<i>Salve, Regina</i> (closing rosary prayer in Latin)	51
Traditional Prayers	53
Act of Contrition	55
Act of Faith	56
Act of Hope	56
Act of Love	56
The Angelus	57
Queen of Heaven	58
The <i>Memorare</i>	59
Way of the Cross	61
Prayers to the Saints	81
Prayer to Mary: Heart of the Holy Family & Queen of Saints	83
Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe	84
Prayer to Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos	85
Prayer to Saint Joseph: Head of the Holy Family	86
Prayer to Saint Joseph: Patron of Workers	87

Prayer to Saint Faustina Kowalska:	
Apostle of Divine Mercy	88
Prayer to Saint Francis of Assisi: Patron of Animals	89
Prayer to Saint Josephine Bakhita: Patron of Sudan	90
Prayer to Saint Juan Diego: Our Lady's Messenger	91
Prayer to Saint Jude Thaddeus:	
Patron of Impossible Cases	92
Prayer to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: Lily of the Mohawks	93
Prayer to Saint Maria Goretti: Patron of Purity	94
Prayer to Saint Martin de Porres: Patron of the Poor	95
Prayer to Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe:	
Patron of Prisoners	96
Prayer to Saint Nicholas: Patron of Children	97
Prayer to Saint Teresa of Avila: Doctor of the Church	98
Prayer to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: The Little Flower	99
Prayers Before the Blessed Sacrament	101
The Eternal Last Supper	103
Jesus: "I Thirst" (For You)	104
Mary, Mother of the Eucharist	105
Joseph, Foster-Father of the Eucharistic Jesus	106
Eucharistic Jesus: Source and Summit of Family Life	107
A Personal Invitation	108

Foreword

One of my favorite religious communities is the Missionaries of the Holy Family. Founded by Father Jean Berthier, the order is dedicated to the ideals of the Holy Family of Nazareth. They are missionaries in the truest sense of the word, bringing Jesus to all who need to meet him and hear him! One facet of this missionary activity is the pastoral care of families.

The *Holy Family Prayer Book* is a marvelous instrument to help parents and their children strengthen their faith and draw closer to God. The prayers may be well known to many, but they remain ever fresh in their ability to help families imitate more closely Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the ideal family and model for all.

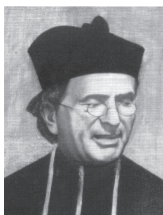
It has become clear that much needs to be done to strengthen the vocation of marriage and the life of the Christian family. The *Holy Family Prayer Book* deserves a place in every family's home!

TIMOTHY MICHAEL CARDINAL DOLAN
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

A Brief History of the Missionaries of the Holy Family

Servant of God Father John Berthier, MS, under the direction of Pope Leo XIII, founded the Missionaries of the Holy Family in Holland in 1895. One hundred years later, in 1995, Blessed Pope John Paul II, in an urgent appeal by letter to the community, wrote of the great need in the world to pastorally care for families. As of 2012, more than 900 Holy Family priests and brothers are serving in 22 countries, emphasizing the Holy Family as the standard of holiness for all families.





Prayer for the Beatification of Father John Berthier and for His Intercession

Father in heaven, you found it fitting to choose your servant, John Berthier, to foster a zealous devotion to Our Lady of LaSalette and the Holy Family of Nazareth and to be an untiring apostle in the education of belated vocations. Please grant me this favor [your intention] so that I may praise you all the more and obtain for myself and others your blessing on this earth and eternal life in heaven.

Grant, O Lord, that John Berthier soon may be privileged with sainthood, in order that he may serve as a model of the virtues he practiced so faithfully during his life. Amen.

For a novena, say one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father with this prayer for nine consecutive days.

Anyone receiving special favors through the intercession of Father Berthier, please notify in writing:

VERY REV. FATHER PROVINCIAL, MSF
MISSIONARIES OF THE HOLY FAMILY
3014 OREGON AVENUE • SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63118-1412

Every Catholic Is a Missionary

Every Catholic should be a missionary. Catholic means universal, for all. We must begin by changing the way we think about what it means to be Catholic. This is not brought about merely through retreats and conferences, for example. It is a call to change the way we think as Catholics and to allow this new mindset to inform our activities. Can we say that individuals involved in all the different parish ministries have a clear understanding of the ultimate purpose of being a missionary—which is to draw people to Christ or, in other words, to evangelize?

The Church clearly teaches that our Catholic identity is missionary. Rediscovering this critical element of our spirituality is the only way to reach out to those who have wandered away or to those who are not yet members of the Church. May this book of prayers encourage you to be a missionary! God bless your family.

Prayers to the Holy Family



Consecration to the Holy Family

O Jesus, our most loving Savior, who deigned to come into the world from heaven, not only to enlighten it by teaching and by your example, and to save it by death, but also to spend the greater part of life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the obscurity of Nazareth, thus sanctifying the home, which was to be the model of all Christian homes: graciously receive this family, which consecrates itself to you this day. Protect us and maintain in us, all through life, your holy fear and love, and true harmony and charity among ourselves, so that we imitate your Holy Family, be one in heart and soul on earth, and obtain eternal happiness and glory with you in heaven.

O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus and our Mother, by your merciful intercession, deign to make this humble dedication acceptable to Jesus Christ, so that we may obtain his grace to be a truly Christian family.

Saint Joseph, guardian and supporter of Jesus and Mary, help us with your powerful prayers in all our corporal and spiritual needs, and especially at the hour of our death, so that we may one day all be united in heaven with you, to praise and love Jesus and Mary forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Family Prayer

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

Joseph, foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

Litany of the Holy Family

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

("Pray for us" is repeated after each invocation.)

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph...

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, most worthy of our veneration...

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, called "The Holy Family"
from all time...

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Son, mother, and father of the
Holy Family...

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, divine Child, pure spouse, and
chaste spouse...

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, restorers of fallen families...

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, image of the Blessed Trinity
here on earth...

Holy Family, tested by the greatest of difficulties...

Holy Family, with much suffering on the journey
to Bethlehem...

Holy Family, without a welcome in Bethlehem...

Holy Family, visited by poor shepherds...

Holy Family, obliged to live in a stable...

Holy Family, praised by the angels...

Holy Family, venerated by the Wise Men from the East...

Holy Family, greeted by the pious Simeon in the Temple...

Holy Family, persecuted and exiled to a foreign country...

Holy Family, hidden and unknown in Nazareth...

Holy Family, faithful in the observance of divine laws...

Holy Family, perfect model of the Christian family...

Holy Family, center of peace and concord...

Holy Family, whose protector is a model of paternal care...

Holy Family, whose mother is a model of maternal diligence...

Holy Family, whose divine Child is a model of filial
obedience...

Holy Family, poor in material goods,
but rich in divine blessings...

Holy Family, as nothing in the eyes of men,
but so great in heaven...

Holy Family, our support in life and our hope in death...

Holy Family, patron and protector of our family...

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

Let us pray: O God of infinite goodness and kindness, who has seen fit to call us to this family, give us the grace to venerate Jesus, Mary, and Joseph so that, imitating them in this life, we may enjoy with them the life to come. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.