



Feast of the Holy Family & New Year's 2018

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PRAYER CORNER
Dianne Caissie,
Rose Auburn, Mildred Ray

MASS INTENTIONS FOR December 30—January 7, 2018

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:

Saturday,	Dec. 30	5:00 pm	For All St. John Bosco Parishioners
Sunday,	Dec. 31	9:30 am	For Pope Francis
		11:30 am	For an increase in vocations
NEW YEAR'S EVE:			
Sunday,	Dec. 31	5:00 pm	For All St. John Bosco Parishioners
NEW YEAR'S DAY:			
Monday,	Jan. 1	10:30 am	For All St. John Bosco Parishioners
Tuesday,	Jan. 2	9:00 am	For + Norman Achille by Michael
Wednesday,	Jan. 3	9:00 am	For Mildred Ray by Sharon Prokop
Thursday,	Jan. 4	9:00 am	St. Elizabeth Seton For All St. John Bosco Parishioners
Friday,	Jan. 5	7:00 pm	Mass, Benediction, Confession
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD			
Saturday,	Jan. 6	5:00 pm	For All St. John Bosco Parishioners
Sunday,	Jan. 7	9:30 am	For + Mary Malowany by her daughters
		11:30 am	For + Jacinto Pereira by Mike and Estrela

NEW YEARS BLESSING

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right. Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE HOLY FAMILY

On the Feast of the only perfect Family that ever lived on this earth, all parents might examine themselves and see how well they are fulfilling the grave responsibility which God has placed on them. As they heard during their marriage ceremony: "children are a gift from God to you." Children serve as the joy of their parents' young years and the help and comfort of their old age, but above and beyond that, they are a gift for which their parents are accountable before God, as they must, in the end, return these, His children, to Him.

Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of the parish family, and for all families of the universal Church.

1) We need to learn lessons from the Holy Family: By celebrating the Sunday following Christmas as the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. Jesus brought holiness to the family of Joseph and Mary as Jesus brings us holiness by embracing us in His family. The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives the following advice to the parents: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. *They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, and fidelity are the rule.*"

2) Marriage: a Sacrament of holiness. The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that, as the basic unit of the universal Church, each family is called to holiness. In fact, Jesus Christ has instituted two Sacraments in His Church to make society holy – the Sacrament of priesthood and the Sacrament of marriage. Through the Sacrament of priesthood, Jesus sanctifies the priest as well as his parish. Similarly, by the Sacrament of marriage, Jesus sanctifies not only the spouses but also the entire family. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through personal and family prayer, meditative reading of the Bible, and devout participation in Holy Mass. Families become holy when Christ Jesus is present in them. Jesus becomes truly present in the parish church through the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Similarly, Jesus becomes truly present in a family when all the members live in the Christian spirit of sacrifice. This happens when there is mutual understanding, support and respect. There must be proper care and respect given by children to their parents and grandparents.

3) Every Holy Mass in which we participate is our presentation. Although we were officially presented to God on the day of our Baptism, we present ourselves and our dear ones on the altar before God our Father through our Savior Jesus Christ at every Holy Mass. Hence, we need to live our daily lives with the awareness both that we are dedicated people consecrated to God and that we are obliged to lead holy lives.

May God bless all our families in the New Year.

**Message of His Holiness Pope Francis
For the celebration of the 51st World Day of Peace
January 1, 2018 (Part 1 of 3)**

Heartfelt good wishes for peace.

Peace to all people and to all nations on earth! Peace, which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on Christmas night, is a profound aspiration for everyone, for each individual and all peoples, and especially for those who most keenly suffer its absence. Among these whom I constantly keep in my prayers, I would once again mention the over 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom 22.5 million are refugees. Pope Benedict XVI, spoke of them as “men and women, children, young and elderly people, who are searching for somewhere to live in peace.” In order to find that peace, they are willing to risk their lives on a journey that is often long and perilous, to endure hardships and suffering, and to encounter fences and walls built to keep them far from their goal.

In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.

Why so many refugees and migrants?

As he looked to the Great Jubilee marking the passage of two thousand years since the proclamation of peace by the angels in Bethlehem, St. John Paul II pointed to the increased numbers of displaced persons as one of the consequences of the “**endless and horrifying sequence of wars, conflicts, genocides and ethnic cleansings**” that had characterized the twentieth century. To this day, no real breakthrough has been registered: armed conflicts and other forms of organized violence continue to trigger the movement of peoples within national borders and beyond.

Yet people migrate for other reasons as well, principally because they “desire a better life, and not infrequently try to leave behind the hopelessness of an unpromising future”. They set out to join their families, or seek educational opportunities, for those who cannot enjoy these rights do not live in peace.

Most people migrate through regular channels. **Some, however, take different routs, out of desperation** when their own countries offer neither safety no opportunity, and every legal pathway appears impractical, blocked or too slow.

Many destination countries have see the spread of rhetoric decrying the risks posed to national security or the high cost of new arrivals. Thus demeaning the human dignity due to all as sons and daughters of God.

All indicators available to the international community suggest that global immigration will continue for the future. Some consider this a threat.

Should we not instead view it with confidence as an opportunity to build peace?

To be continued next week.

