

# Liturgy Alive of Feast of the Holy Family

Feast of the HOLY FAMILY

## Greeting

The Lord loves you.

In our families and communities  
may the Lord unite you in his love  
and may you do everything in his name.  
His peace be always with you.

*R/ And also with you.*

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. Pleasing the Lord

Every family has its cares and worries. On today's feast of the Holy Family we are shown that Mary and Joseph and Jesus had more than their share of problems and woes, especially that the very reason and heart of this family was Jesus, this bewildering son. They did everything for him. What is typical for us in the Holy Family is that in everything they sought God's will; this will be characteristic too for Jesus, God's will was to be his food and drink. Let the heart of our families, too, be Jesus, and with him and Mary and Joseph we ask ourselves what God wants of us and we do it.

B. When Jesus Was A Child

Of what value for our Christian living are the ordinary things we do every day, like eating and cleaning, talking and writing? What have they to do with our faith? A look at the hidden life of Jesus will help us understand and appreciate these things. Before he went out to preach and heal, he did all these common, banal things, and through these, too, he saved us. If we can do them like him and with him they are good things and religious things, and through them we give worship to God.

Penitential Act

Let us ask pardon from the Lord

that we have often done carelessly  
the common tasks of everyday life.

*(PAUSE)*

Lord Jesus, you grew up in Nazareth  
and lived as the son of the local carpenter.  
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus Christ, to work with your hands  
was part of your human dignity.  
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, through your life in the holy Family  
you sanctified the ordinary tasks  
of everyday life.

Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Have mercy on us, Lord,  
and forgive us all our sins.  
May our lives give you worship

and lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

that God may bless our families  
*(PAUSE)*

God our Father,  
you let Mary and Joseph  
provide the warmth of a home  
to your own Son, Jesus Christ.  
Let Jesus become the heart and center  
of all our Christian families.

May we all grow up in him  
and become closer to one another  
in patience and love.  
With the Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may we seek your will in all we do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### Liturgy of the Word

#### General Intercessions

With the Holy Family of Nazareth we trust in the Lord who knows all our needs, and we ask him to bless all human families. Let us say: **R/ Lord, bless your people.**

- For the family of the Church, that it may be a mother and a home  
for all people in need, let us pray: **R/ Lord, bless your people.**

- For all married couples, that they may keep the freshness of their first love or rediscover it, let us pray: **R/ Lord, bless your people.**

- For all the families of the world, that they may keep growing in mutual appreciation and service, let us pray: **R/ Lord, bless your people.**

- For children and young people, that their parents may be to them grownups concerned about their growth and happiness, let us pray: **R/ Lord, bless your people.**

- For separated couples and their children, that they may meet warmhearted people whose understanding love helps them to overcome the failure of their home life, let us pray: **R/ Lord, bless your people.**

- For our Christian communities, that as members of one family we learn to carry each other's burdens and to share each other's joys. Let us pray: **R/ Lord, bless your people.**

Father, we trust in you. May we not deny one another all the love you show us in Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,  
you invite us to share the family table  
of Jesus your Son.  
May the food and drink he gives us  
change us into gifts to one another,  
that we may become each other's  
bread and wine, life and joy.  
Let serving love and respect  
be our offering to one another and to you,  
today and tomorrow and every day,  
on account of your Son in our midst,

Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

With joy we give thanks to the Father that he wanted to become our God-with-us in his Son Jesus Christ.

#### Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

United before God as his sons and daughters we pray the prayer taught us by his Son Jesus of Nazareth: *R/ Our Father...*

#### Deliver Us

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil

and let the peace of Christ live  
in our hearts and our homes.  
Keep us from all that divides us  
or encloses us within ourselves.  
Give us compassion, gentleness and patience,  
that we may prepare in hope and joy  
for the full coming among us

of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *R/ For the kingdom...*

#### **Invitation to Communion**

This is Jesus the Lord,

who comes to unite us  
as the sons and daughters of the Father.  
Happy are we to be invited

at the family table of the Lord. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

#### **Prayer after Communion**

God our Father,

Jesus your Son made himself near to us  
in this eucharistic celebration.  
He has been here for us,  
approachable and available to all.  
May he keep on living  
in our homes and our communities.  
Let him make us, too, approachable  
and available to one another,  
even at the cost of personal discomfort  
and with Mary and Joseph  
ready for any task you may entrust us.  
For we can do everything

in the name of Jesus the Lord. *R/ Amen.*

#### **Blessing**

It was good to be together

as the family of God's people  
and to pray with the Holy Family of Nazareth  
for what is dear to all of us:  
our homes, our families,  
the Christian community,  
the family of our nation and people.  
May God bless us all  
and keep us united.

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Go in the peace of the Lord.

*R/ Thanks be to God.*