

Sunday, December 31, 2017

Readings: 1) Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3    2) Hebrews 11:18, 11-12, 17-19    3) Luke 2:22-40

**Sunday Liturgy**

The focus for today’s Mass is that families are the domestic church, cultivating a family life centered on Christ.

It is through our trust in God and our love for one another that we bring Christ to life in our own families and communities.

In the first reading, Sirach echoes God’s mandate to honor our father and mother, for in doing so we honor God.

In the second reading, Saint Paul instructs the Colossians to live in the spirit of Christ, loving one another and seeking peace.

In the Gospel, Joseph and Mary present Jesus at the Temple for the ritual Jewish purification.

There they encounter the prophet Simeon and prophetess, Anna, who offer thanks to God for this long-awaited Savior and foretell of his coming reign of power.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**PRIEST:**

**Loving God, you are the giver of all that is good.**

**We offer our prayers and petitions,  
trusting in your loving response to our call.**

**For Pope Francis and all bishops and priests, may they continue to offer encouragement to all families within their care,**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For all nations of the earth,  
may they seek peace and reconciliation,**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For all those suffering in body, mind or spirit;  
may Christ be their constant companion.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For all those who have died,  
may they be welcomed into the new and heavenly Jerusalem.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For all families, may we look to the Holy Family  
as our model for serving one another with a spirit of love and peace,**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For our own personal intentions, ..... (long pause),**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**PRIEST:**

**Father, in your goodness,  
hear the prayers your family offers you this day and  
help us to serve one another.**

**We ask this through your son, Jesus Christ.**