

**THE FIRST STATION
MARY AND JOSEPH ARE MARRIED**

**THE SANCTITY OF THE MARRIAGE COVENANT:
AN EXCHANGE OF PERSONS SEALED AND BLESSED BY GOD.**

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Mt. 1:18-21) When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with Child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this Child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Reflection: Many marriages suffer because frequently the couples do not understand fully the sacredness of this special bond of love. There are so many temptations to be unfaithful or to abandon the covenant rather than to work to correct what is wrong. What is lacking is a strong faith and trust in the Lord who has promised his help all the days of their married lives.

Prayer-All: By the sacrament of matrimony, a man and a woman enter into a sacred covenant relationship based on mutual love, trust and self-donation. We pray for all married couples. We pray especially for those experiencing difficulties; that they will be faithful always to their vows and will seek the help of the Holy Family to resolve their problems.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE SECOND STATION
JOSEPH AND MARY JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

**THE MARRIAGE COVENANT LIVED OUT: HUSBAND AND WIFE TOGETHER
SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES,
THE JOYS AND THE BURDENS OF MARRIED LIFE.**

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Lk. 2:1-4) In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with Child.

Reflection: The marriage covenant is lived correctly and fully when husbands and wives share all of the joys and all of the responsibilities. A covenant cannot be authentic if one is merely passively involved or indifferent to the well being of spouse or children. A loving marriage must be based on a mutual respect which shows itself in the sharing of all things, together as one.

Prayer-All: In order to have a successful and a happy marriage, a husband and a wife must share the responsibilities. They must pray, work and struggle together as did Joseph and Mary. We pray that the example of this Holy Family will inspire husbands and wives everywhere to share in all things as they work to make their families, holy families.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

THE THIRD STATION
JESUS IS BORN TO MARY HIS MOTHER AND TO JOSEPH HIS FOSTER FATHER

**THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE EMINENTLY MANIFESTED
IN THE BIRTH OF A CHILD.**

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Lk. 2:6-7) While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reflection: It is so difficult to believe that anyone would deliberately kill a child. And yet, abortion is exactly that. We believe that a new, unrepeatable human life begins to live at the moment of conception. Then why do so many bitterly fight for the right to choose to kill these children? Perhaps because those who choose abortion and all other crimes against human life no longer see the beauty of God's creation.

Prayer-All: The true beauty and glory of all of God's creation can be seen in the face of a new born child. With every child, God embraces us with his endless love. We pray that all people will come to respect human life, especially the lives of the unborn children. Let us pray ceaselessly for an end to abortion and to all the other crimes against human life: God's greatest and most beautiful creation.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE FOURTH STATION
MARY AND JOSEPH PRESENT THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

GOD IS FIRST IN THE FAMILY: THE NEED TO WORSHIP GOD AS FAMILIES.

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Lk. 2:22-24;39) When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord. “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,” and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their town of Nazareth.

Reflection: In order for families to be holy, joyful and healthy; they must have a profound and sincere relationship with God the Creator of all. When our families join together at Holy Mass, they have the opportunity to speak to the Father of holiness; to receive the Son of joy, and to be touched by the Holy Spirit of healing. And yet many of our children have abandoned their Catholic faith and the worship of our Father in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Let us never cease to work for their return; so that one day, united again as families, we will all worship our God from whom all families receive their life and their strength.

Prayer-All: We firmly believe that all blessings come from the Lord. What greater blessing can we receive than the gift of our families? To the Lord we owe our praise and gratitude for all of his gifts and blessings. We pray that all the members of our families, especially those who no longer practice their faith, will join together on the Lord’s Day to offer Jesus’ Holy Mass: the greatest act of thanksgiving the world has ever known.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE FIFTH STATION
THE HOLY FAMILY FLEES INTO EGYPT**

**WE MUST BE COMPASSIONATE TOWARD THE MANY SUFFERING FAMILIES IN
THE WORLD: THE REFUGEES, THE POOR, THE HOMELESS, THE ABUSED.**

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Mt. 2:13-15) When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

Reflection: There are so many families suffering throughout the world. Many fathers and mothers have no home for themselves or for their children because they have had to flee because of wars, persecutions, drought or famine. Not a few families live in utter poverty even in countries with plenty. Many too suffer because of abuse, addictions or neglect. We must not close our minds and hearts to their need, for they too are children of our Father.

Prayer-All: Almighty Father, like the Holy Family so long ago, many of your children are suffering even today in a modern world. May we show our love and compassion for them by our deeds. Let us offer them our prayers, our comfort and our support so that the Lord may heal them and bring them peace.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE SIXTH STATION
THE HOLY FAMILY IN NAZARETH**

THE IMPORTANCE OF A HOLY, HAPPY AND STABLE FAMILY.

Leader: Oh, Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Lk. 2:39-40) When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Reflection: A family can achieve holiness and happiness only in an environment of peace, security and stability. There is today, however, a common experience that is very different. Broken marriages, physical and mental abuse, uncontrolled anger and frustration have all made the environment hostile to peace, security and stability. Let us return to the basic plan of God: Couples committed to each other and dedicated to the family, aided by the grace of the sacrament of matrimony.

Prayer-All: Let us pray that all families will follow the example of the Holy Family and work to achieve that peace and happiness that only the Lord can give. Lord, be with them in all their efforts. Reward them for their fidelity.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE SEVENTH STATION
JOSEPH AND MARY SEARCH FOR JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

**THE PAINS OF PARENTHOOD: THE CHALLENGE TO
BE FAITHFUL PARENTS.**

Leader: On Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Lk. 2:46-48) After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”

Reflection: To be good and caring parents requires much dedication and effort. Parents must learn to die to self so that the tendency toward selfishness will be transformed into a willingness to sacrifice all things for their children. Far too many parents have yet to learn this great lesson of selfless love. The desire to put personal interests first is a temptation that never rests.

Prayer-All: We pray that all married couples who accept the responsibility of parenthood, will also accept the challenges this vocation demands. Oh Holy Family, do not let parents forget their duty to sacrifice self, so that their children too may learn to love and to serve.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE EIGHTH STATION
JOSEPH DIES AT HOME**

THE LOSS OF A SPOUSE: THE COVENANT IS COMPLETED.

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (1 Cor. 13:4-8) Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Reflection: It is surely a painful truth that the husband and wife who have worked so hard to be faithful to each other in their marriage, will just as surely suffer greater pain when the spouse dies. For even though their marriage covenant is completed, their love is not. The deceased spouse remains alive in memories, in prayers and in undying hope.

Prayer-All: We offer a special prayer to you, Oh Lord, for all who have lost their spouses. Console them in their grief with your sacred presence in the Holy Eucharist, and with your certain promise of eternal life for all who are so faithful to their marriage vows.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE NINTH STATION
JESUS PERFORMS A MIRACLE AT CANA**

THE GREATEST ACT OF LOVE OF CHILD FOR PARENTS: OBEDIENCE.

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Jn. 2:1-5,7-8,11) On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.” Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” Then he told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Reflection: Jesus Himself equates obedience with authentic love. “If you love me, keep my commands.” Obedience is one of our greatest challenges and greatest tests. Just as we teach our children to obey as a sign of their love and respect; so too with humility must we accept the Lord’s commands and live them daily. All the problems and difficulties of our lives can be traced back to one serious disorder: disobedience.

Prayer-All: Heavenly Father, we your children seek to obey your will for us in all things. As our Father you want only what is best for us. Teach us how to love you and one another with a sincere love, a true love that can only be expressed by obedience.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE TENTH STATION
JESUS LEAVES HOME TO BEGIN HIS MINISTRY**

WHEN A CHILD LEAVES HOME: LETTING GO OF GOD'S GIFT.

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Mt. 4:13-14,17) He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. . . From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Reflection: There is a unique silence in the home when a child leaves to begin a career. But now that it is here, it can be a painful silence; the pain of separation. Many parents quietly suffer this unexpected cross sharing these feelings only with the Lord.

Prayer-All: Lord, we pray for all parents who experience a sense of loss when their child leaves home. Help them to understand, that their duty is to care for and raise their child in such a way, that the child can go out and serve well both God and neighbor. Lord, help parents to let go of God's precious gift.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE ELEVENTH STATION
MARY AT HER SON'S TOMB**

THE DEATH OF A CHILD: PARENTS' GREATEST SORROW.

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Jn. 19:18, 25-27) There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son," Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Reflection: How often we have heard it said that parents should not have to bury their children. Truly there can be no greater pain. Just as the birth of a child can bring great hope; the death of a child can bring great despair. At such a time, only Jesus' promise of eternal life for those who are his faithful children can bring any consolation to parents. May the Holy Family who shared even this sorrow be the strength of all grieving parents.

Prayer-All: Oh Mary sorrowful Mother of Jesus, will the pain of this loss ever go away? Will grieving parents ever find peace again? You understand well their sorrow. Help them to accept this most painful cross with faith and trust in your Son's merciful love for all the children.

Our Father. . . Hail Mary. . . Glory be to the Father. . .

**THE TWELFTH STATION
THE HOLY FAMILY IS REUNITED IN GLORY**

**THE FINAL REWARD FOR FIDELITY IN ALL OF LIFE'S STRUGGLES:
ETERNAL LIFE.**

Leader: Oh Most Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph; intercede for us who seek your help.

All: For in you we place all our faith and all our trust.



Meditation: (Rev. 7:9, 13-15) After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, “Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?” I said to him, “My lord, you are the one who knows.” He said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” “For this reason they stand before God’s throne and worship day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them.”

Reflection: The hope of future glory sustains us throughout our lives. If we believe in the Lord’s promise of eternal happiness for those who faithfully obey his will; we will endure life’s challenges courageously. Knowing that one day we will be reunited with our families around the throne of glory is the hope that gives us this courage.

Prayer-All: Oh Lord, by your divine grace you have fashioned us into your image and likeness. You have given us the privilege of truly being members of the Family of God. All our lives you have called us; you have helped us and you have strengthened us on our journey to you. Grant us the grace of final perseverance; so that no matter the difficulties of life, our families may be gathered together into your kingdom to live with the Holy Family forever and ever. Amen.

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...