

PRAYER SERVICE
GRANDPARENTS' DAY & PARENTS' DAY

OPENING HYMN:

We are happy Christians (or any other hymn)

INTRODUCTION

Parents' Day honours parents everywhere who are vital to the development of the future generation. It is specially meant to express our loving appreciation to the two most important people in our lives – our parents. We remember the years of self-sacrificing love and care.

From this year, we also mark the fourth Sunday of July as World Day of Grandparents and Elderly. The message of Pope Francis on the first Grandparents' Day celebration - 'I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS' is pertinent in view of the ongoing pandemic. We need to be convinced that whatever the situation, Our Lord Jesus Christ is always present among us.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, who in Your unlimited goodness has committed us unto the care of loving parents, we ask You to bless our parents and grandparents with your loving protection and good health. Lord, set them free from sadness and sorrow, regrets and guilt. Forgive us for the times we have hurt them and disregarded their advice. Give us the grace to love, respect and obey them at all times. Help them to inherit the great reward waiting for them in Heaven. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:11-32

REFLECTION

This is a parable of the overwhelming love of a father for his son. The son committed the gravest form of rebelliousness towards his father by demanding his inheritance before the father died. He squandered his inheritance and returns home, expecting rejection. But the father's love for his son is so great that he celebrates the prodigal son's return.

God's love for us is like this. There is no sin that is too big for God to forgive. No life is beyond God's redemption.

God loves us more than we can fathom. Let us turn to him today, confess our sins and ask him to forgive our past rebelliousness. Hand our lives to him and let him turn them into something truly beautiful.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

With trust in His merciful love, let us confidently present our intentions to God, our loving Father:

Our Response is: Loving Lord, bless our families.

1. For our Holy Father Pope Francis, bishops, clergy and lay faithful that all of us may listen to God's holy Word and translate it into action. We pray to the Lord:
2. For parents who are the first and foremost educators of their children, that the Lord's wisdom and strength will continue to inspire them in their responsibilities. We pray to the Lord:

3. For our grandparents that they may feel the continuing presence of God's hand guiding them amidst the situations they find themselves in. We pray to the Lord:
4. For all families, especially all of us gathered here, that we will continue to be renewed by the joy and loving mercy of God. We pray to the Lord:
5. For us who face the future with anxiety and fear, that we may experience God's support and consolation in all our fears. We pray to the Lord:
6. For those who have died, especially our family members, our SCC Animators and Coordinators that they will live forever in the radiant glory of our God. We pray to the Lord:
7. For our silent intentions: (pause for 7 seconds). We pray to the Lord:

God of peace, you have made us one family in Christ Jesus. Hear our prayers, and let your everlasting love bind us close to Him and to each other, this day and every day. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER AND BLESSING FOR PARENTS

Dear St Joachim and St Anne, you were truly twice blessed - to have our Blessed Mother as your daughter and Jesus our Saviour as your grandson. We know that every period of our lives has its responsibilities, its joys and sorrows, hopes and griefs. We pray to you to intercede for our parents and grandparents, so that they may always be role models for us. O God, we pray to you to bless all our parents and grandparents, that they may feel your protecting hand, guiding them and inspiring them to teach us the values of your Kingdom. May they continue to walk in the way of Your commandments, and may we, their children, be their joy on earth and their crown of glory in heaven. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord... Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Bind us Together Lord (or any other hymn)