
PRAYER FOR FAMILY

Loving God,

Creator of all that we are
and all that we have,
bless our family
and deepen our faith.

Nourish our family
with the spirit of Christian stewardship
so that we may share generously and joyfully
the gifts You have given us.

As we share these gifts,
help us to be mindful
that we spread Your reign
in our home,
our neighborhood,
and, indeed, throughout the world.

We ask all of this
through our Lord,
Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Teaching the Stewardship of Time and Talent

Christian stewardship calls families to be aware of the needs of their neighborhood, the poor and underprivileged in their area, and the outside world. Stewardship encourages families to develop a Christian world-view.

All families have gifts to share, and our parish and other charities need volunteers on a regular basis, like soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Sharing time with others through volunteering could be a routine family time activity.

Teaching the Stewardship of Treasure

Christian stewards understand that our material goods are a gift from God. Parents are responsible for teaching their children to use these gifts wisely and prudently. Children should be encouraged to divide their allowance and other funds into three general categories — spending, saving, and giving. Then, let them donate the giving portion to the Church and other charities of their choice. Children can spend some time learning about different charities, so that they know what good their gifts will do in the world.

The Family Reflects Christ's Presence

Indeed, the Christian family is a counter-cultural sign today. The Holy Spirit works through the practice of stewardship by Christian families to establish a sign of Christ's presence in the world today, and nurtures their commitment to the Lord and to one another.



**CALLED BY CHRIST
GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT**

*Nurturing Our Family
with Time and Love*

*To Share Christ in and
through the Church*



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“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.”
(1 Peter 3:8)

Another fundamental principle of Christian stewardship is nurturing our family with time and love. Christian families are communities whose faith in Jesus Christ brings and keeps them together. Similarly, we believe that the Holy Spirit refreshes the faith that brings us closer to God and to each other in family life.

Family Identity

The term, “family” brings a rich dimension to our understanding of community life — whether the reality is that of two-parent families, single-parent families, childless married couples, couples whose children are grown and away from home, single and widowed persons in their extended family networks, blended families, and men and women in religious communities. All of these constitute “family.”

Families give us an identity in community larger than our own personal lives and our work. Thinking of ourselves as members of a family can bring a deeper consciousness of a shared life of permanent commitment. This is especially helpful in today’s culture, which places less value on permanent commitments to others, especially in times of hardship. Likewise, families also may bring a deeper awareness of shared work in a culture that places more importance on the self and individual pursuits.

Stewardship and the Family

Christians are called to exercise good stewardship by nurturing family relationships which presume love, a spirit of forgiveness, and reconciliation. Christian families work at open communication, develop a sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others, and foster love for one another.

Marriage

Christian marriage is a dynamic sign of Christian stewardship because it gives public witness to the joy of deep, personal, and spiritual commitment. Guided and strengthened by the exercise of faithful stewardship, marital love thrives in an atmosphere of freedom and trust, where each is allowed and encouraged to grow, to be more creative in their love, and to draw closer to God as a lifelong commitment to the Lord through the role of husband and wife.

Parents and Children

Children are a gift from God. Parents must always be mindful that, to their children, they are micro-images of God. They are, by word and example, the first preachers of the faith for their children. They teach their children the importance of daily prayer and pray with them, and help their children celebrate their Christian values in today’s secularized society. Christian parents are models of stewardship, serving each other, their children, the Church and the community.

Parents give their children a genuine sense of trust and security, making their home a safe, welcome place. They take time to do things together with their children as a family, and they try to be sensitive to their children’s own

growing preferences and skills. Parents also allow their children to make choices, and by letting them know that as stewards themselves, they are responsible and accountable for those choices.

We are also the stewards of parents, especially aging parents, encouraging them to feel confident that we consider their lives not only meaningful but sacred by allowing them to live out their lives in dignity and with respect.

Family Time

Just as the family that prays together, stays together, so does the family that plays together. It is important that Christian families spend time together on a regular basis. Oftentimes, families are too busy to enjoy a meal together or catch up on each other’s lives. However, a period of “family time” offers families a chance to become closer to God and to each other.

Families should be specific about honoring family time each week. The time and day can be marked on a family calendar so that everyone knows not to schedule events during that special period. A fine time might be Sunday after Mass, since it is usually a day when most families may be found at home.

While family time may begin with a prayer or Scripture reading, the time period does not necessarily have to entirely revolve around spiritually related events. After all, God can be found in all things, including family fun time activities.