



100 FAMILY PETITIONS FOR SUNDAY LITURGIES

By Susan Vogt

Below are 100 family-oriented petitions that may be used during the General Intercessions at Mass. If a parish would include one petition each week, over time, each Sunday liturgy would include a petition geared to a variety of family needs and situations.

JANUARY

(New Year) That in this new year, family members strive to support one another and help each person to recognize their own unique gifts and abilities. Let us pray to the Lord...

For families facing difficult decisions about employment, money, schools, health etc. that they may have the courage and bravery to trust in the Lord...

Jesus brought recovery of sight to the blind. May He open our eyes to see how we can better support mothers faced with an unplanned pregnancy and help with care for her child after birth...

For engaged couples, that this time before their wedding might be an opportunity to better appreciate each other and to understand the Sacrament they are called to be in marriage.

(Anniversary of Roe v Wade) For women who have had abortions that they may be led to the healing presence of the Church through Project Rachel.

(Anniversary of Roe v Wade) That in seeking to be truly Pro-Life we refrain from violence and harsh judgment, and seek always to convert those with whom we disagree, with truth and love...

For divorced men and women who tried their best to make their marriage work, that they may have the strength to pick up the pieces of their lives and believe in themselves again.

For an appreciation of the wisdom of grandparents and other elder family members...

FEBRUARY

For convicted criminals and their families that they may find forgiveness and ways to contribute to the good of society.

(World Marriage Day) On this Sunday, World Marriage Day, bless all married couples with the wisdom to see, affirm and appreciate the gifts they are to one another.

(World Marriage Day) For married couples, on this World Marriage Day, that they may be delivered from the dangers of boredom and routine which can erode the deepest love relationship...

For families trying to take back control of their T.V. computers, and other media so as to live more responsibly.

For widows and widowers as they deal with the loss of their spouse.

For those who care for a family member suffering with a terminal illness, that they might always be a sign of Christ's care and compassion...

For grandparents, especially those helping to raise their grandchildren.

(1st. Sunday Lent) For families separated by the inability to forgive, that they might put aside their differences and discover the common bonds that unite them...

MARCH

(First Sunday of Lent) That families will work these six weeks of Lent to improve or repair relationships by becoming a better spouse, son or daughter, parent or grandparent.

For married couples who have fallen out of love with each other, that they may take advantage of programs such as *Retrouaille* or *The Third Option* and begin to rebuild their marriage.

That our community may seek to understand and respect all those among us regardless of their sexual orientation.

For the elderly and infirm, that they may endure their ailments with fortitude and grace.

For single adults, that they may be at peace with their state in life and generously offer their talents to those in need...

For families that are desperate for food, shelter or medical help that they might find the assistance that they need...

For all families who grieve, that the pain and sorrow they now feel might give way in time to wonderful memories of time spent together...

(Easter Sunday) That the families of this parish community might be an example to our society of the Christian way of love, acceptance, forgiveness and trust...

APRIL

(Easter) That in our homes we act generously and peacefully with each other so that we might learn how to love our enemies, pray for our persecutors and walk the extra mile.

For teen seeking love that they may understand the wisdom and safety of saving sexual intimacy for marriage.

For all parents who are weary and exhausted, give them the wisdom, patience, and strength to be strong guides to their children.

For birth parents, adoptive parents and their children...

For children coping with the divorce of their parents...

For the many volunteers who share the imperfect stories of their lives with others in marriage preparation, marriage enrichment and family programs...

For children involved in organized sports, that they may learn what it means to be a good sport and not focus only on winning.

For new parents as they adjust to the care and needs of a new person in their family.

MAY

For parents whose children have left home, as they discover new ways to spend their time...

For couples who struggle with infertility that they might find hope in their love for one another.

(Mother's Day) May God bless all mothers, grandmothers, and stepmothers that they continue to be generous in their love, strong in their guidance, and persevering in their forgiveness.

(Mother's Day) For all mothers – birth mothers, adoptive mothers, step-mothers, foster mothers, expectant mothers, and grandmothers – that they may care generously for the children in their charge and occasionally experience appreciation for their work...

For pregnant mothers, that they might have a safe delivery and that they will dedicate themselves to responding to the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of their child...

(Memorial Day Weekend) That families have the courage to stand up for their beliefs so that their Christian values might influence their community.

(Graduation) For new graduates that they may never stop learning and that they use their education to make a meaningful contribution to our world.

(Graduation) For graduates of all levels as they move into the uncertainty of a new school or life situation...

For parents who anguish over the troubles and crises of their teenagers that they be given wisdom and peace...

JUNE

For men and women who are trying to put their lives back together after the pain of divorce...

For retired people that they may find creative and fulfilling ways to use their time.

(Father's Day) For all fathers – biological fathers, adoptive fathers, step-fathers, expectant fathers, and grandfathers – that they take time with their children and be a model of courage and fidelity for them...

(Father's Day) May God bless and strengthen all fathers in their roles as providers, teachers, mentors, fixers of broken toys and broken hearts.

That married couples will have the courage to put their relationship first in a culture that promotes material success...

For step-parents as they try to provide a loving home for a child because of their love for their spouse.

That our families be strong enough to stand against the materialism and “me first” mentality of our culture, witnessing to a God who promises a deeper satisfaction...

For parents of toddlers, that they be able to see beyond the practical work of caring for their child to the lessons of wonder for God's creation that children teach us...

JULY

(Independence Day) For vacationing families, that their journeys be safe and healthy...

(Independence Day) On this holiday weekend as we celebrate our country's Independence, may we remember that with freedom comes responsibility. Give us the will as a country to help the poor within our borders and to help other countries that need our assistance.

For families who travel this summer that they might be refreshed in the company of family and friends and exercise good judgment in their recreation plans...

For engaged couples that they may use this time to thoughtfully explore their relationships and not be overwhelmed with the details of planning for a wedding...

For the divorced members of our faith community, that they may find peace through forgiveness, insight through acceptance, and strength as they rebuild their lives...

For single parents who struggle to raise their children alone, that they may discover the support and encouragement of this community...

For parents, that they might have the courage to speak out firmly against the “unclean spirits” of hatred, drugs, and pornography that contaminate our children...

For married couples whose relationship has become stale or routine, that they may take advantage of times of renewal such as a Marriage Encounter Weekend...

AUGUST

(Assumption of the Virgin Mary) That married couples will have the courage to put their relationship first in a culture that promotes material success...

May we seek to change those conditions that don't respect the life of any person because of gender, age, religion or race...

For the young adults in our community who are searching for direction and purpose may they find the spiritual core for which their heart yearns...

For all students and teachers as they start a new year of formal learning and teaching

For newly married couples, that they might be patient with each other as they adjust to married life...

For sandwich generation parents who care for both aging parents while still caring for their own children at home, that they have endurance and respite.

That families be able to find a healthy balance between supporting children's involvement in sports and saving unstructured time for the family to be together...

As we begin another school year we pray that students, parents and teachers will experience success and the opportunity to use their gifts in the year ahead...

SEPTEMBER

(Labor Day) For families facing unemployment or financial stress and for children who work under abusive labor conditions in our country and abroad...

(Labor Day) For parents trying to balance work, family and personal needs...

For grandparents, especially those helping to raise their grandchildren...

For families with hyperactive or learning disabled children that they may have rest and patience...

For foster or adoptive children yearning to know of their roots, and for the parents that care for them...

For kids who tease or bully and those who suffer because of them...

For brothers and sisters who fight with each other whether they be children or adults, that they may learn the skills of peacemaking...

For engaged couples, that this time leading up to their wedding be an honest search for deeper knowledge of each other and not consumed with hectic wedding preparations...

God of Love, move families to become communities of love and service so that they might be a refuge for those exploited by society...

As Christ fed the five thousand may we be mindful of our obligation to share our bounty with people, families and nations that are less fortunate than we are...

OCTOBER

(Respect Life Month) That we might grow in appreciation of all life, especially that of the unborn, people with disabilities, and the elderly...

(Respect Life Month) For birth mothers, adoptive and foster parents, and their children...

(Respect Life Month) That families have the courage to stand up for their beliefs so that their Christian values might influence our community...

(Respect Life Month) For those experiencing a difficult pregnancy, that their present anxiety be transformed into abundant joy with the birth of a healthy child...

(Respect Life Month) For abused or neglected children, that they may be welcomed into loving homes through foster care or adoption, before the pain of neglect scars them deeply...

(Respect Life Month) For teens confronted with decisions about sexual involvement...

For parents who feel disappointment with their children, give them the stamina to continue to be loving guides and examples to their children...

For the married couples in our community celebrating their 25th and 50th Anniversary this year, that their marriage might be a sign of a life totally committed to one another...

For parents and grandparents, that they may not lose heart, but continue to be a deliberate voice that prepares the way of the Lord in the hearts and minds of their children and grandchildren...

NOVEMBER

(All Saints/All Souls) For families that grieve the loss of a loved one, that the promise of eternal life might lessen the burden of their sorrow...

(All Saints/ All Souls) For families that grieve the loss of a relative that they might find be consoled by the memory of loving times spent together

For married couples that they may strive daily to sacrifice for each other as Jesus sacrificed himself for the Church...

(Thanksgiving) That families might pause this Thanksgiving to recognize God's presence in their lives – in the blessings and the sufferings, in the celebrations and in the sorrow....

(Thanksgiving) In this week of Thanksgiving we thank you, Generous God, for the many gifts we take for granted. Teach us gratitude for the blessings that fill our lives and families...

For families who watch helplessly as a loved one fades slowly with a debilitating illness, that they might find the strength and support to carry this heavy burden...

For grandparents who bring treats and time to their grandchildren and often take up the slack when parents are working outside the home...

(Advent) That during these four weeks of Advent family members dedicate themselves to be alert to the many ways we are gifts to one another...

DECEMBER

(Advent) For teens seeking love that they may understand the wisdom and safety of waiting for marriage to become sexually intimate...

For those couples who are struggling with their marriage, that they might find the strength to recommit themselves to each other and to their relationship...

(Christmas) As we welcome the infant Jesus, may we have the insight to accept, treasure and care for all children especially those children born with special needs...

(Christmas) For calm in our homes as children and adults wait, sometimes impatiently, during these last few days before Christmas...

For parents of preschoolers that they may have energy and patience with their children during these often hectic days before Christmas...

For single people, that they find the companionship and support that gives them life...

(Holy Family) On this Holy Family Sunday, may God bless each family of our parish as they struggle to love and forgive each other...

(New Year) Living together as a holy family can be difficult. As we begin a New Year may we reach out and ask for forgiveness from all those whom we have hurt in any way...