



February 11, 2015

# World Day *of the* Sick

## Wise Family

When God created humans, he designed us to live in families. That's the reason He created Eve for Adam. As He said to Himself "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). Family relationships, therefore, are important to God. Even the church, the universal body of believers, is called the family of God. And God defines how the family should live "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). In other words God expected them to love each other. Loving each other does not mean only exchanging gifts, flowers, cards or saying "Love is in the air" as we hear in the Valentine's Day. Is there any use for us or for our family if our love is in the air? Then how do we define love? St. Paul defines the "True Love".

**"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:1-7).**

As we read above even though we speak in tongues, have the gift of prophecy, have faith to move

**St : Josephs Parish**  
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

**Tamil Mass will be celebrated every second Saturday at 6.45 PM**

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mountains and give away all my possession if we don't have love we again nothing.

Today we can see family problems everywhere and many families separated mostly because "True Love" is missing. We may go to Mass every day, say family prayer every day and may fulfill all spiritual rules and regulations but does my family practice the basic foundations of "True Love" patience, kindness, unselfishness, truth, peace, etc.? It is a hard question for all the families. Does my family live in peace and harmony within the family tree and outside? Do the families living around us certify that the "True Love" exists in our family? Once the family deviates from these basic foundations other non-love characters such as money, pride and status will fill in and the family will fall and there is no point blaming others. Family will fall if we do not build it wisely. As Jesus said "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash" (Matthew 7:26-27).

Let's pray to God to give us wisdom to put His words into practice in our families and be called "wise builders" to build our families on the rock.

**Wish you all a very happy Valentine's Day**

**— Leenus Rich**

### UpComing Events

**Lenten Retreat & Tamil Mass**  
**Mass: Mar 14th , 3.30 PM.**



## Family

Family is the first Church. Family is the womb of faith and the teacher of faithfulness. Family is where we learn about the fruitfulness of love and responsibility. Family is where we understand that there are others whom we must care for and sacrifice for. According to Vatican II, a family is a domestic church. It says "the family will fulfill its mission if it shows itself to be the domestic sanctuary of the Church through the mutual affection of its members and the common prayer they offer to God."

### Common Prayer

Pope Francis, during his speech in the Philippine, urged us to take time from our busyness to pray. We are all living in the busyness of the world. We all are chasing behind the time, yet if we can set aside a time to pray, we can get the strength to do our duties and fulfill our commitments. "Family that prays together stays together" - Fr. Peyton. It is so true. When our families are united in prayer no harm can reach us. No Struggles will affect us. No one can separate us. Our family will be like the house that is built on the rock. Pope Francis also emphasis the importance of prayer. It is from the family that we first learn how to pray, come to know God, and grow in faith. In the family we learn how to love, to forgive, to be generous and open, and not selfish. We learn to move beyond our own needs, to encounter others and share our lives with them. That is why it is so important to pray as a family!

### Mutual affection

Praying together as family will also leads us to mutual affection and understanding of each other. "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another." - Col 3: 12. As St. Paul describes in his letter to colossians, when our families are prayer centered, it will not be hard to practice the virtues of the family life.

Now the question is how our families can practice the virtues of the family life. The United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides some helpful ways to live a prayer centered life.

- Begin praying as a family and reading from Scripture daily, certainly before meals, but also first thing in the morning or before bed. Find a time that works for your family. Use the liturgy of the Church as a model for prayer, and try to include heartfelt unstructured prayer as well.
- Pray a Family Rosary (each member leads a decade, and everyone shares intentions).
- Have a crucifix in a prominent place in the home, and in every bedroom.
- Make the Sacraments a regular celebration – take the whole family to Confession and Mass!
- Begin family traditions based on the seasons celebrated in the liturgical calendar.
- Make your vacation a holy pilgrimage by visiting the shrines and saints of our land and the world.
- Make worshiping God a priority. Never miss Mass, even while traveling – go to: [www.MassTimes.org](http://www.MassTimes.org) to find a church near you!
- Teach stewardship and charity to your children, through word and example.
- Demonstrate love for your spouse, your children, your neighbors, and the world.
- Remind your children that they are loved by God and have been given gifts to serve others.
- Talk freely about the presence of God in the joys and sorrows of your life.
- Welcome into your home and support priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, and lay ministers in the Church.
- Participate in the lay ministries and activities of your parish community.
- Allow your children to witness you in private prayer. Encourage your children to pray daily on their own, to listen for God's call, and if heard, to respond.

Family is one of the most basic, yet important gifts that God has given us. So as parents we are responsible to cultivate a family life that is centered on Christ.

— Agnes P Raj



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