**Feast of the Holy Family**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant:** As we strive to ‘*walk in his ways’*, with confidence we bring our prayers and the prayers of the family of God before the Lord.

1. For the Church: through the Spirit’s strength and guidance, may she exercise Christ’s mission of compassion and healing. **Lord, hear us.**
2. That governments may protect and support the institution of marriage as a sacred covenant which enriches natural love and makes a valuable contribution to the fabric of society. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For children and those who teach them. May our schools be places of learning where Christ’s grace and knowledge reaches the hearts of children as they seek direction and purpose. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For the whole human family that we may learn to live in peace, striving to break down the barriers of prejudice and intolerance. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For parents who are anxious for their children: alleviate their fears, deepen their trust. May their children bless them with respect and love. **Lord, hear us.**
6. We pray for healing in families that are divided; open hearts to the possibility of communication, that hurts will be healed and conflicts resolved. **Lord, hear us.**
7. For families whose loved ones are missing; let your presence change their sorrow into comfort, their anxiety into trust, and their despair into faith. **Lord, hear us.**
8. For family members who are sick at this time. May they enjoy the consolation of the Lord, the presence of their loved ones. **Lord, hear us.**
9. That our family members who have died may be welcomed into eternal life. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, united in faith and moved by the Spirit, strengthen Your family to be your faithful witnesses in the world. We ask these prayers through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**