

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY

A Higher Purpose

Invite each family in your parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family. Revitalize our parishes by urging our parish families to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Overview

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this important and impactful, which also gains a plenary indulgence for all who participate. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God's love through His Church.

Chairman Role and Responsibilities

- Work with your pastor on conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family.
- Ensure that all parish families are properly prepared for the consecration.
- Promote the consecration in your parish and community.
- Complete and submit all associated reporting forms to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission.

Action Steps

1. Working with your pastor, obtain his permission and recommendations on conducting a Consecration to the Holy Family in your parish.
2. Order a good quantity of Consecration to the *Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) through Supplies Online, the supply ordering portal available on Officers Online.
3. Set a date for the consecration and announce it to your parish a month before the official day.
4. Distribute *Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) at Masses the week before the consecration. Also place a good supply of prayer cards in your church and council hall.
5. Although the formal consecration will occur at all Masses on a chosen Sunday, serious and mindful preparation for at least a week prior is a major aspect of this program. To ensure that all members of your parish are fully participating and readying themselves for the consecration, your council should consider:
 - Asking your pastor to make an announcement at all Sunday Masses the week before the consecration. Ask him to explain what a consecration is, why it is being undertaken, and how to properly prepare.
 - Suggesting that each family pray together each day for the week before the consecration. Ideally, this will lead them to continue the practice, at least on a weekly basis, after the consecration has occurred.



- Encouraging each family to intentionally fast from something ahead of the consecration. This fast should last at least a week leading up to the consecration. It is strongly encouraged to fast from something that would normally be consumed or an activity that is regularly done. Fasting helps to discipline our minds and hearts and moves us to be more focused on God.
 - Strongly encouraging each member of all parish families to go to confession before the consecration. (Parishioners will not gain a plenary indulgence unless they ensure to received the sacrament of reconciliation as part of their preparation.)
 - Hosting an event in the middle of the week prior to the Sunday consecration. One idea for this event is to invite a guest speaker to discuss the importance of consecrating oneself to the Holy Family, the model of the Holy Family, the meaning and impact of consecrations, or related themes. Be sure to set aside time at your event for prayer in community. Consider praying the rosary together and be sure to recite the consecration prayer together in preparation.
6. Build public interest! Promote the Consecration to the Holy Family in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters (which can be ordered through Supplies Online)
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
 7. On the chosen day, distribute Consecration to the *Holy Family Prayer Cards* (#10371) once again. Under the direction of your pastor, recite the *Consecration to the Holy Family Prayer* together as a parish family at all Sunday Masses. If he is willing, ask your pastor to also incorporate themes relating to the consecration and the Holy Family in his homily.
 8. Following the consecration, host an event in the parish or council hall for all parish families to celebrate the consecration together! Have family-friendly games ready for everyone to enjoy. Remind all present that this consecration holds lasting impacts. Although the time of preparation has ended and the consecration has occurred, devotion to the Holy Family continues, and we should always strive to resemble their ideal model of a loving family.
 9. At the celebration event, be sure to wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including *Prospect Cards* #921A). Do not forget that this event is a recruiting opportunity!
 10. Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
 11. Following the consecration and celebration, update the community on the success of your program by distributing an announcement to local media, along with energizing photographs from the event.
 12. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms and submit them to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Remember to retain copies for your council records.

Please Note: Although this consecration is traditionally celebrated around the Feast of the Holy Family, councils are encouraged to hold this program at any time during the year.