

Prayers for Vocations



Table of Contents

Family Vocational Prayers.....	4
Prayer for Vocations.....	5
Prayer for Vocations to the Diaconate	5
Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood	5
Prayer for Vocations to the Religious Life	6
Prayer for Holy Families	7
Prayer for Vocations to Lay Leadership	7
Personal Prayers for Vocations.....	9
A Prayer as Parents.....	9
A Prayer as a Husband and Wife	10
Prayer as a Engaged Couple	10
Prayer as a Single Person for Marriage.....	11
A Prayer as a Young Person	12
Children’s Prayer #1	13
Children’s Prayer #2.....	13
Prayer While Discerning a Vocation	14

Family Vocational Prayers

Thank you for praying for vocations! We invite you to place this icon, that presents a specific vocation, in a prominent place in your home. Take some time each day to pray any of the prayers provided or any other family prayers, such as the Rosary, the Hail Mary, or the Our Father. You may also pray spontaneous prayers if you feel comfortable. Even a simple addition to the meal prayer, *“for the Lord to send us holy men as priests and deacons, and men and women as religious”*, is a wonderful way to pray for vocations.

When you have finished your month, please return the Vocations icon at the next weekend Mass you attend or to the Church office at the end of the month.

Please keep this booklet and continue to pray every day for vocations as a family.

May the Lord continue to bless you now and always!

Other Suggestions for the Month

- One family member holds the icon and each person mentions a good thing about that person and how that good thing serves God. Each person in the family has a turn. Talk about how these gifts God gave us could serve His church.
- Before the evening meal, say a prayer for vocations with those family members able to be there.
- Stop by the chapel this month and spend a few minutes with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and pray for vocations to the priesthood.
- As you pass by the icon in your home, pray for an increase of vocations.
- Dedicate part of your Adoration hour to pray for vocations.

Prayer for Vocations

Holy Father, look upon our humanity still deeply marked by hatred, violence and oppression, but the thirst for justice, truth and grace still finds a space in the hearts of many people, who are waiting for someone to bring salvation, enacted by you through your Son Jesus. There is the need for courageous heralds of the Gospel, for generous servants of suffering humanity.

Loving and gracious Father, you give us each a vocation. May ordained priests and deacons continue to be Your sacramental presence among us. May sisters and brothers in religious life fulfill the missions entrusted to them. May those called to marriage and family life grow in shared faith and love. May single laypeople dedicate themselves to serving You. May all who seek to discover their vocations find the inspiration and grace to go where You lead. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them for their lifelong service of you. Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders to serve at your altar.

Lord Jesus, Eternal High Priest, open the hearts of Your men that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in Your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Diaconate

Father, You call all who believe in You to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ Your Son. May those whom You have chosen to serve You as Permanent Deacons provide by their way of life a convincing sign of Your kingdom for the Church and the whole world. Stir the hearts of those you have called to answer You, to open their arms for service of the community. Amen.

Prayer for Seminarians

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, we ask for graces for all seminarians, Your future priests. Give them humility, meekness, prudence, and a burning zeal for souls. Fill their hearts with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to know and love the Church, that they may always and everywhere speak, act, and think with her, the glorious spouse of Christ. Teach them generosity and detachment from worldly goods; but above all, teach them to know You and to love You, the One and Only Eternal High Priest. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Religious Life

Heavenly Father, we beg you to call young men and women to your service as religious. May they be inspired by the lives of dedicated sisters and brothers to find their way to religious communities filled with love for You, whose life in community foreshadows our eternal unity in Christ, and whose service brings your life to the world. Inspire them by Your Holy Spirit to leave their way of life and share the work of Your Son Who lives forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Holy Families

O God our Father, bind together in your all-embracing love every family on earth. Banish anger and bitterness within them; nourish forgiveness and peace. Bestow upon parents such wisdom and patience that they may gently exercise the disciplines of love, and call forth from their children such independence and self-respect that they may freely obey their parents, and make the mutual affection within families a sign of Your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to Lay Leadership

Gracious God, thank you for calling us at Baptism to be your people. In response to your call we again say, "Yes." Keep us faithful to your mission and our vocation.

Bless with a renewed spirit of zeal and enthusiasm all who dedicate their lives in service to your people. Inspire more women and men of faith and compassion to serve as lay ministers. Gather a strong group of people who will be co-workers with you and your ordained ministers to continue tilling the soil of our hearts, preparing us to receive the seed of your word. Amen.

Litany for Vocations

God, our Father, Creator who calls us to life:

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Faithful Servant:

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, Source of Courage:

Have mercy on us.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, our High Priest:

Pray for us.

St. Joseph, her spouse:

Pray for us.

Sts. Peter and Paul:

Pray for us.

Sts. Benedict and Scholastica:

Pray for us.

St. Dominic, St. Francis, and St. Ignatius:

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney:

Pray for us.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

Pray for us.

Sts. Louis and Zelie Martin:

Pray for us.

St. Gianna Molla :

Pray for us.

All holy men and women of God:

Pray for us.

Amen.

Personal Prayers for Vocations

A Prayer as Parents

Lord Jesus Christ, you sanctified family life in Nazareth and gave us Mary and Joseph as an outstanding example of unselfish love for children. We ask you to fill our home with your grace and blessings. Help us to educate our children in a Christian manner and may our love for each other be sacrificial, tender, and pure. Grant us the gift of making a truly Christian family, a small domestic Church.

We pray that our children will grow up healthy in body and soul, that they will learn to love you with simplicity, and never be separated from you. They belong to you, for you have given them to us and, if you wish to call any one of them to your service, granting them the gift of a vocation, we will willingly offer you whatever sacrifice their physical separation from us will mean.

Deign, Lord, to set your eyes on our home and choose one of our children for yourself. It is the best gift you could offer us, since we know for sure that he/she will be happy with you and do much good for the Church by giving his/her life for you and your Kingdom. Amen.

A Prayer as a Husband and Wife

Keep us, O Lord, from pettiness. Let us be thoughtful in word and deed. Help us to guard against fault-finding, and be quick to discover the best in each other and in every situation. Guard us from ill temper and hasty judgment; encourage us to take time for all things, to grow calm and gentle. Help us to be generous with kind words and compliments. Teach us never to ignore, never to hurt, and never to take each other for granted. Engrave charity and compassion on our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer as a Engaged Couple

Father, your greatest command was to love You and love each other. You've given marriage as a holy relationship that reflects the relationship of Christ and the Church. Show us how to follow your example and set aside our selfishness and pride and humbly serve each other. Help as we prepare for marriage to be of one spirit and of one mind and value each other above ourselves, looking out for each other's interests. In the midst of our busy lives, help us take time to love each other deeply from the heart, as you have loved us. May the love we have for each other, sealed in our coming marriage, be an example to the world of how You love them and gave Your life for them.

Prayer as a Single Person for Marriage

Dear Lord, help me to find someone I can truly love who will love me as well. Someone with whom I can gladly share my thoughts, my feelings, indeed my life! Someone with whom I may raise a family in accordance with your will to share your love and give you Glory. May he/she be a vessel of joy in good times and a firm pillar of prudent support in bad. Let neither of us forget that you are there to help us in all cases with your help, guidance, and grace. Let me be discerning and not seek someone solely out of loneliness, but out of love for you and my potential spouse. Don't let carnal or other worldly desires cloud my judgment about getting married. Help me to listen to the voice of your Holy Spirit instead in this important matter. Heavenly Father, I ask all these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer as a Young Person

Lord Jesus, I come before you to reflect on life, on others, on myself, and on the many things that I cannot now grasp about you, the world around me, and myself. I would like to do great things for you and for others, so that my part in history will not be in vain.

I pray in a special way for those who are young like me, who hear in their hearts your call to the priesthood or consecrated life. It must not be easy for them to leave everything to follow you. They must find it hard to leave family, friends, comforts, possessions.

Yet, I understand perfectly those who are capable of leaving everything to follow you; you are the treasure for which it is worth selling everything so as not to lose you. Your priests and religious will spread your message of peace, joy, and hope. They will console the sorrowful, strengthen the weak, and spread your grace and forgiveness. I do not know what answer I would give if I felt your call, but I ask you to give me a heart full of generosity, courage, boldness and faith.

You are truly capable of filling a life, giving it meaning, and making it bear fruit. Grant us priests after your own heart. Move the hearts of young people so that they will not hesitate to leave behind the things of this world and follow you. Amen.

Children's Prayer #1

God, thank you for loving me.

In Baptism you called me by name
to live as your child.

Help all your people to know their call in life.

For your greater glory, raise up generous leaders
to serve as priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers.
Amen.

Children's Prayer #2

Loving Father, I know you love me
and have great plans for me. Help me
to walk in your love every day. Show
me and all your people your way
and help us to listen to you.

I pray for all those
you are calling to be priests,
deacons, religious sisters
and brothers. May they respond
in love to your call. Please make
my heart always ready
to do what you want. Amen.

Prayer While Discerning a Vocation

Lord Jesus, I have waited for a long time for this moment. I have needed time to speak with you alone and especially to listen to you. The truth, to be honest, is that you do not stop sending me messages. The problem is that I do not always want to receive them. At times I drown them out with work, people, and noise. Yet then, when your calm invitation "Follow me" comes, my heart overflows with light and peace. As soon as I hear this invitation in the depths of my conscience, my heart trembles at the thought that you have chosen me from among hundreds and thousands of young people. Your chosen apostle? Then the calling of your first disciples comes to mind and I ask myself, "And what was so special about Peter, James, John and Andrew?" Weren't they sinners like everyone else? Weren't they weak, quarrelsome, and cowardly like everyone else? Yet, you chose them. And Jesus answers me, "You did not choose me; no, I chose you!"

It amazes me to think that these poor fishermen from the Sea of Galilee did not hesitate to leave on the shore, dead forever, their fishing nets and boats to follow you. And I find it so hard to leave my family, the comforts of home, my friends, my career prospects, my personal plans, my freedom... But on the other hand, you also attract me with a special force, telling me that you are much more than any person or thing in this world. Your personality, your generosity, your tenderness, your

gentleness of heart, and the greatness of your Kingdom all attract me.

I will follow you, Lord. I will follow you wherever you go, and wherever You take me. I will go with you, carrying my cross and rising with you in order to save souls for you. Only three things I ask of you: grant me faith, grant me generosity, and grant me courage. In a word, grant me love.

God, our Creator, life is your gift to me. By Baptism, You invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. I ask Lord, "Who will be your priest, deacon, brother, sister, missionary, lay leader? Is it I?" Give me the courage and generosity to respond to your love, to your call. Give those to the married and the single state the graces that their vocation requires. Give those you have called to the priesthood and consecrated life the graces they need to sustain them in their special calling and mission in the Church. Keep them close to you throughout their lives.

This I pray through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



The parish for families to meet Christ.

We welcome everyone as a member of our family, serve everyone as a family member, and engage the whole family.

College Station, TX 77845

www.stabcs.org | 979-693-6994