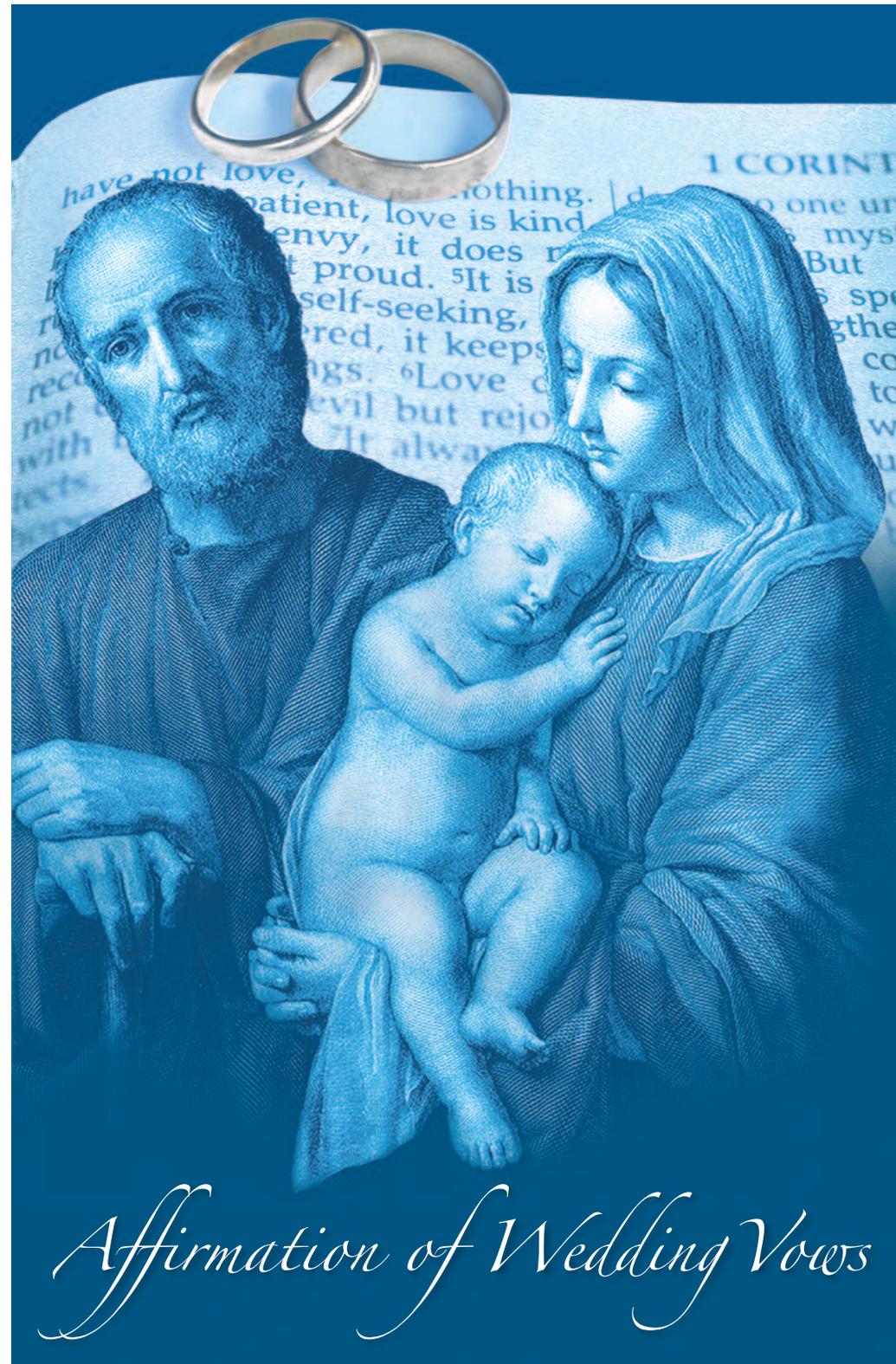


Celebrating our Catholic Marriages and Families

Father's Day is an important time to celebrate and promote the role of fatherhood within the Christian family. Fathers, by their word and example, pass on the faith and reflect the image of God the Father within their homes. Christian marriages reflect the relationship between Christ and the Church and have the Holy Family as their primary model.

As devoted Catholics, members of the Knights of Columbus nourish, support and strengthen Catholic family life through parish-based programs and charitable works. Today, our parish's Knights of Columbus council invites each couple present to affirm their wedding vows. We hope that by doing so you and your spouse will again experience the grace received on your wedding day, when you gave witness to the union of Christ and the Church. We pray that your marriage continues to be strengthened through the example of the Holy Family and the love that comes from Christ.



Affirmation of Wedding Vows

AFFIRMATION OF WEDDING VOWS

During or immediately following the liturgy all couples will be invited to affirm their wedding vows in a simple and solemn ceremony. The celebrant will invite couples to stand together in their pews or to gather at an appropriate place in front of the sanctuary.

Y Dear brothers and sisters, on your wedding day you joined your lives in an unbreakable bond through the Sacrament of Matrimony. I invite you now to join your right hands as we pray together for God's continued grace and blessing upon your marriage.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love;
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.

Prayer composed by Pope Francis and offered on the feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 29, 2013.

Y Lord God and Creator, we bless and praise your name. In the beginning you made man and woman, so that they might enter a communion of life and love. You likewise blessed the union of these married couples, so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church. Look with kindness on them today. Amid the joys and struggles of their life you have preserved the union between them. Renew their marriage covenant. Increase your love in them and strengthen their bond of peace, so that surrounded by their children they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES

Y Husbands and wives, please bow your heads for the blessing.

May God the eternal Father keep you of one heart in love for one another that the peace of Christ may dwell in you and abide always in your home.

R/ Amen.

Y May you be blessed in your children, have solace in your friends and enjoy true peace with everyone.

R/ Amen.

Y May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity, so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.

R/ Amen.

Y And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R/ Amen.

Blessing adapted from the Roman Missal, Third Edition. Prayers modified from the Prayer of Blessing of a Married Couple, Book of Blessings (1989).