Holy Family Year A December 30th

Note: When a Sunday does not occur between December 25 and January 1, this feast is celebrated on December 30 with only one reading before the Gospel.

**Welcome before Mass**: (Commentator)

Tēnā Koutou Katoa - Welcome! Today is the celebration of the Holy Family. In honouring the Holy Family, we honour all families. Family is the first place where love is learnt and faith is caught. We come together as one family, the brothers and sisters of Jesus, the daughters and sons of God. Welcome to this family today. As a family we are here to give thanks, to say thank you for all that sustains us in life, to celebrate Eucharist. It is good to be here. To prepare to encounter Jesus who comes to meet us in this Eucharist, let us take a moment’s silence. **(20 … seconds - stay at microphone).** Welcome to ……………………… (*parish name*). Let us stand and sing.

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**For the Church** – that those who are leaders of the Church and all the baptized clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For leaders of nations –** that they ensure work is available for people and wages are sufficient to provide families with adequate food and housing.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For refugee families who are fleeing their homeland** – that wherever they go, they will be made welcome and have a home where they can live with dignity, purpose and belonging.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For fathers and mothers –** that parents act with wisdom, guide their children with gentleness and understanding and behave in a way that is worthy of the trust children place in them.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For children of Aotearoa New Zealand –** that they live in homes where they are safe from abuse or violence, have nutritious food, clean clothing, comfortable bedding and loving care.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For communities of animals that live on the earth** – that people continue to establish practices that respect animal life and live with greater consciousness of the interdependence of all life.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For travelers –** that in this holiday season, those who travel on the roads will be respectful of others, observe road rules and maintain safe practices.

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**For our local community of**………………….. That\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please add a prayer for people who live near you.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Silence) **Reader:** Lord hear us **All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Concluding Prayer**

O God, you cradle us at the beginning of life, you are with us throughout life and embrace us at journey’s end. In entrusting your son to the care of Mary and Joseph you did not spare them the pains that touch the life of every family. Teach us to be open to your word and rely on you in times of trial. May we live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in the love of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A**men**