

International Day of Families “Embracing Diversity, Strengthening Families”:

Four Tips: 1. Pray Together to Stay Together: Today’s life situation allows little time to be together. Home seems to be the place only for dining, sleeping and preparing to go for work or for education of children. Hardly do we find time for conversation, family entertainment, family prayer. However, we long for togetherness, affection, understanding, support and family spirit. Family life is like a honey-comb. It has to be built daily. “A family that prays together stays together,” is a saying formed out of experience. Family prayer need not be a thing of the past. We must encourage and promote prayer in the families. There were days when we could hear family prayer being said in every Christian family. We need to bring every Christian family under the umbrella of prayer. It will protect our families from peril, trouble and disaster. Prayer will save our families from dangers and problems. **2. Honour Your Parents:** The fourth commandment of the Ten Commandments is: “Honour you Father and Mother.” Parents are the like the bows from where the children proceed like arrows. They spend everything in order to educate the children, to get them employed, to get them married, even after children’s marriage, becoming grandparents they take care of the grand-children. The children get everything from their parents as their right but later when time comes for spending on the parents, the children calculate, hesitate, procrastinate and deviate. Honouring the parents can be done only by taking care of their needs and keeping them happy. **3. Hold firm to Love and Values:** “If your married life is filled with love and moral values, then your life would become disciplined and the purpose of life would be attained.” Love is the quality and values are the effects of that love. Love is the only thread which must unite husband and wife in marital life. There will be ups and downs in the path of family life: joys and sorrows, health and sickness, wealth and poverty. But constant should be the love which endures, which is selfless, which is limitless. Love should blossom into ethics, values, deeds of integrity and works of charity. **4. Forgive and Heal the Wounds:** Family life is not formed for robots. It is for human beings. Over many hundreds of years, humanity has embraced such a beautiful institution as created by God (Gen 5:2). A family is the basic unit of humanity. Pope Francis has reiterated many times the use of three words for a happy family life: Please, Thanks and Sorry. The spouses must cultivate a mature attitude that they request for any need, and not make a demand. Family life is made smooth by saying thanks for favours obtained. The balm of healing is saying sorry when things go wrong. International Day of Families (May 15) is a reminder that all of us need to strengthen our families. Make time to come together, build the bonds of love between each other. This year’s theme stresses the importance of embracing diversity and strengthening families. *By Fr Antony Pancras.*

Bishop’s Appeal: *So far 48 families from our parish have donated \$10,240. The total assessment for our parish is \$12,171. If you have not sent in your donation yet, please pray about what God is calling you to give to help support the Church. Please know that whatever you are able to give we are very grateful for. (Please note that whatever amount we fall short in reaching our goal our parish does get billed for.) So far 8 families have contributed \$600. St. Hubert Mission Station goal is \$1,465.*

Vacation to India: Fr. Polumari will be gone on Vacation to India starting from May 12 to June 13, 2024. He requests prayers for his sister’s wedding in June and for the safety of the travels. Fr. John Cerkus will cover the weekend masses and the spiritual needs of the parishioners. There will be no weekdays masses.

Announcements:

“Happy Mother’s Day” to all the mothers.

There will be a second collection next weekend, May 18 & 19 for Home Missions-our Own Needs. Envelopes are attached to the bulletin.

Saturday Masses at St. Huberts will be at **6:00 pm.** while Fr. Anil is on vacation – May 12 to June 13.

A special thank you to all Catechist teachers and helpers for all their hard work teaching our CCD students. It is much appreciated.

There will be an “appreciation dinner” for all St Leonard’s volunteers sometime in June. If any of you would like to be included, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet at the entrance of the church by June 1st.

The Diocese has cancelled the Entrust retreat at our parish due to the insufficient registrations.