



**Prayer for Married Couples**

Glory and praise to you Almighty God and Father, for it is from you that every family in heaven and on earth is named. Bless our marriage and awaken in us a deeper appreciation for this Sacrament of your love. Enkindle in us anew the freshness of our first love that our lifelong covenant may never grow cold. Grant that through the bonds of holy matrimony we may work out our salvation day by day. May we grow in forgiveness, patience, perseverance, compassion and selflessness. May we confirm our vows of fidelity and heartfelt love by the way we treat one another each day. By your example, may we be slow to anger and rich in loving kindness and faithfulness. For you, O Lord, love us in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, whether we be rich or poor. May we return to you that endearing and enduring gift through a lifetime of courageous self-emptying love. By your grace showered upon this most precious relationship, may we learn to love without condition and gain the humility needed to receive unconditional love.

In a time when so many counterfeits to authentic marital love surround us, may we recall the true inner meaning of our exclusive loving embrace. Grant that we may imitate the beauty of that sacrificial love that exists between Christ and his beloved bride, the Church, and so consecrate us in that perfect love that abides in the heart of your Trinitarian mystery. May we rejoice both in our affectionate sentiments, and also in each loving sacrifice. Bless our desires making them pure and chaste, that we may always wish to make a complete self-gift to one another of our hearts, minds and bodies. May we cooperate with your life giving designs for our marriage and always be open to any new life that you choose to author. By your presence at the center of our unified lives, may we be a convincing sign to the world of your faithful love lived out in the indissoluble bond of true sacramental marriage. Amen.

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