**APYM Morning Prayer for Parents**

APYM December 6, 2017 – “Finding Common Ground”

St. Nicholas & Intercession for Parents

* Opening Reflection: The Life of St. Nicholas of Myra
  + Gold coin story
  + “Even as an unweaned infant, he fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays” – HAHA.
* Gold Coins for Parents: Be a St. Nicholas – take 3 coins and write a little note or plan an action for 3 parents to support them in doing what they do for their children
* Intercessions for Parents (together -- handout)

**Intercessions for Parents**

For parents who live vicariously through their children, we pray.

For step-parents, we pray.

For parents who are or have been imprisoned, we pray.

For parents who are distant from their children, we pray.

For parents who force their children to marry in the Church, we pray.

For parents without a support network, we pray.

For parents who serve in ministry of any kind, we pray.

For same-sex parents, we pray.

For separated, divorced, or remarried parents, we pray.

For parents who have been through or are in the annulment process, we pray.

For parents who are widows or widowers, we pray.

For parents who have been abused, we pray.

For parents who are “staying together until the kids move out,” we pray.

For grandparents who are parenting their grandchildren, we pray.

For unemployed and underemployed parents, we pray.

For parents who are afraid to admit they don’t know their faith very well, we pray.

For helicopter parents, we pray.

For parents who have a chronic or terminal illness, we pray.

For those who are proud to be fathers and those who hope the DNA tests are incorrect, we pray.

For military parents, we pray.

For those who pay child support and those who need child support, we pray.

For parents who have disabilities, we pray.

For parents struggling with anger, guilt, or feelings of inadequacy, we pray.

For parents married to someone of a different faith, and their spouses, we pray.

For parents of children with disabilities or serious illnesses, we pray.

For parents of deep faith, shallow faith, or no faith, we pray.

For parents whose children are now adults, we pray.

For immigrant parents, we pray.

For parents who feel overwhelmed, we pray.

For parents of children in Catholic school, private school, public school, or homeschool, we pray.

For undocumented parents, we pray.

For parents grieving an “empty nest,” we pray.

For parents of children seeking Sacraments and parents of those living them out, we pray.

For single parents, we pray.

For parents unsure of how they will pay for medical care, we pray.

For parents of college students and young adults, we pray. 🡪

For expectant parents, whether planned or unplanned, afraid or elated, we pray.

For parents or potential parents struggling with infertility, we pray.

Parents who have lost babies in miscarriage or stillbirth, we pray.

For parents not offered or unable to take parental leave, we pray.

For parents receiving assistance, we pray.

For parents who work multiple jobs or long hours, we pray.

For stay-at-home parents, we pray.

For parents who work for pay, we pray.

For parents who volunteer their time in the community, we pray.

For new parents, we pray.

For parents who have lost babies through abortion or other violence, we pray.

For adoptive parents, we pray.

For parents living with addiction, we pray.

For foster parents and non-parents who serve as guardians, we pray.

For parents who have lost children, we pray.

For godparents, we pray.

For our own parents, we pray.

For parents who prioritize sports or other activities over church, we pray.

For parents who need constant reminders, we pray.

For critical or negative parents, we pray.

For parents who are full of suggestions, we pray.

For parents who prioritize church, we pray.

For parents who make a point to encourage and praise our work with teens, we pray.

For the parents who will receive the “gold coins” of our intentional actions, we pray.

St. Nicholas of Myra: patron of children, you served parents in need; pray for us.

St. Monica: you prayed powerfully for your son’s conversion despite your own weaknesses; pray for us.

St. Joachim and St. Anne: you taught Mary how to be a parent; pray for us.

St. Joseph, you loved and raised Jesus as your own; pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God: you know the heart of every parent, in their sorrow and in their joy; pray for us.

Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of parents, and for the gift of working to support, encourage, form, and collaborate with them. In this season of Advent, teach us to imitate you as the perfect Parent: May we be always patient, always gracious, always forgiving, firm yet loving, establishing boundaries, and meeting needs with kindness. Send your Spirit to help us remember we are all children in your care, and though we love imperfectly, your love for your children never fails.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus our Brother. Amen.

***This prayer service was inspired by and segments were adapted from:***

<https://www.colleenmurphyduggan.com/blog/2016/05/a-parents-litany-of-humility> *and* <http://www.franpratt.com/litanies/2016/1/30/litany-for-parents-of-small-children> *and* <https://www.boldcafe.org/prayer-parents/> *and* <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/Nicholas.htm>