

Enhance your family prayer with

**FAMILY ROSARY**

# *Feast of the Epiphany*

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

It's a new year! Take a moment to breathe in this fresh start. Begin or end each day with family prayer to get in the habit of praying together. Don't worry, it doesn't have to be perfect! Take comfort in knowing there is no one "correct" way of doing it.

It's a busy time of year for everyone, but it's especially important to slow down and enjoy each other's company.

Know that we are joining you and your family in prayer. We promise to be with you, growing in faith, every step of the way. May God continue to bless you and your family.

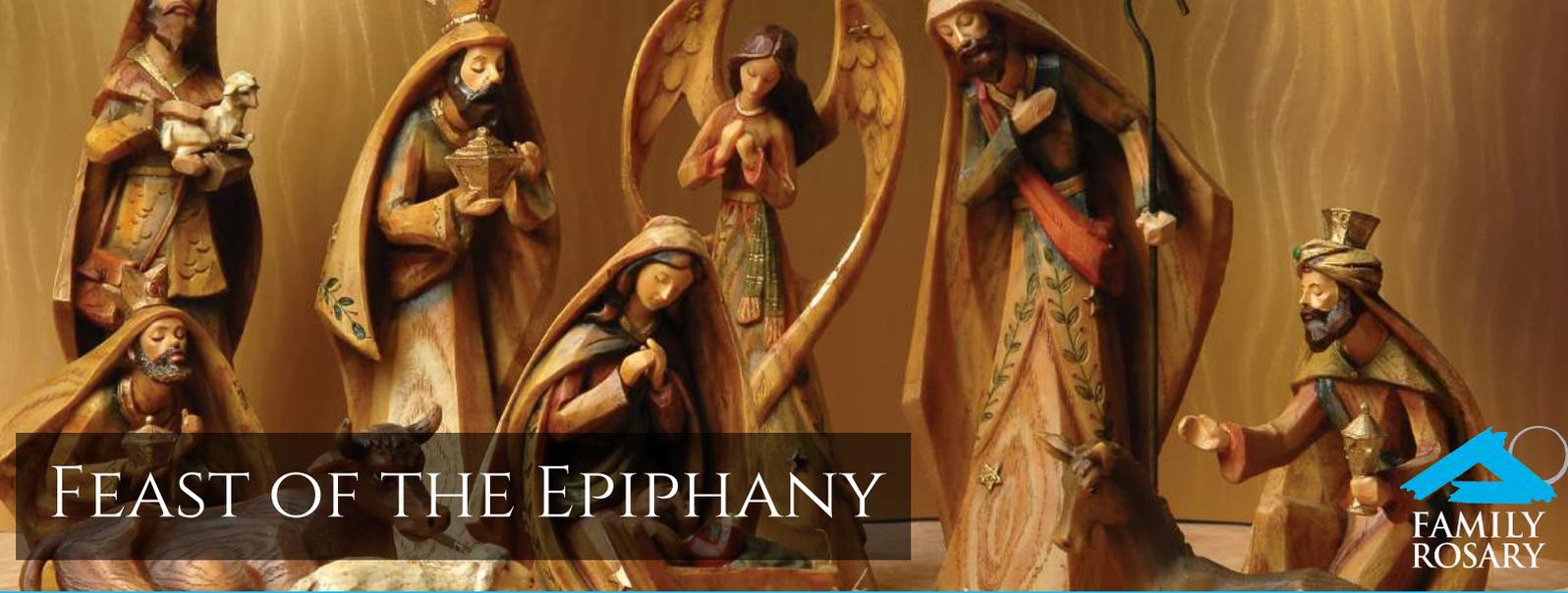
## A LITTLE HISTORY

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building **family unity** through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of **family prayer**. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the message created by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



“ THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER. ”  
VENERABLE PATRICK PEYTON



# FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



## **LED BY A STAR**

We mark this Feast day remembering the visit of the three wise men from the East who journeyed from afar following a star to a newborn king! Who these men were and how far they came – and the historical response of Herod with the slaughter of the innocents in his fear of this newborn king – let us pause and reflect upon this.

Consider the circumstances of the Holy Family. Mary, a teenager, gives birth in a barn surrounded by animals far from her parents. Three men dressed in glorious clothes arrive to give her son gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Joseph has a dream that they must pack their belongings and flee – danger is imminent.

## **MATTHEW 2:13-15**

The angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command: “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him.” Joseph got up and took the child and his mother and left that night for Egypt.

Think about this – the hardship of this trip, the uncertainty. With the gifts of the Three Kings, Mary and Joseph and their baby embarked as refugees; gifts they could not have predicted or likely asked for – yet conceivably essential to easing the journey they were forced to make.

What is the lesson in this for us? Read on...

## **DO NOT DESPAIR! DO NOT BE AFRAID! TRUST.**

No matter where life takes us, we can have confidence that we are loved and that God will provide! Often we pray for specific things, but through the example of Mary and Joseph we must simply learn to trust and pray.

Many families struggle with homelessness, unemployment and uncertainty. Indeed, it is a struggle to have hope when we are crippled with anxiety.

Yet, over and over in the Bible we hear “Do Not Be Afraid!” By the example of the Holy Family we see that hope requires perseverance in prayer - and trust in God’s plan for each and every one of us. Life is difficult and sometimes the obstacles can seem insurmountable, but our faith requires us to trust in God.

## **JESUS INSTRUCTS US**

Scripture tells us: “Stop worrying, then, over questions like, “What are we to eat, or what are we to drink, or what are we to wear? The unbelievers are always running after these things. Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first his kingship over you, his way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides. Enough, then, of worrying about tomorrow. Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has troubles enough of its own” (Matthew 6:31-34).

On this feast day, let us reflect upon something that causes despair or hopelessness in our hearts or homes. Persevere in prayer with trust that God will assist in this petition, praying not for a specific outcome or item, but rather with Mary’s Fiat, “Thy Will be Done.” By abandoning ourselves to Him, by placing our Trust in Him, we open ourselves completely.

Today when you're sitting down to dinner with your family, talk about putting your complete trust in God. Stress to your family members that we must all trust in Jesus, and remember that, in “God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).



### **MARGARET DWYER**

Margaret has been married to her husband Michael Hogan for twenty years, and they reside in Easton, Massachusetts with their four children. She is a catechist at her church, and loves to help Holy Cross Family Ministries spread devotion to Father Peyton's cause and his continuing ministry, Family Rosary.

# BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER

We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Continue to pray with your family every day, wherever you are.

For additional online resources for family prayer including a Prayer Petition Page and our World at Prayer Blog, please visit our website at [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org).

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.*"

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