

### Fathers' Day Litany

Blessed are you Lord our God, creator and redeemer of all;

You father us from all eternity giving life to creation and pouring your love into all you have made.

From the beginning we have known you as "Father", and all our families have their origin in you.

Through the love of earthly fathers you give us a glimpse of your everlasting love.

We give thanks for those fathers who strive to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice. And we pray for those fathers who, lacking a good model for a father, have worked to become good fathers.

We thank You for those fathers who by their own account were not always there for their children, but who continue to offer those children, now grown, their love and support.

We also give thanks for those fathers who, despite divorce, have remained in their children's lives and for those fathers whose children are adopted, and whose love and support has offered healing.

We thank you for those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earn their step-children's love and respect.

And we ask your special blessing on those fathers who have lost a child to death, and who continue to hold those children in their hearts.

We also give thanks for those men who have no children, but cherish the next generation as if they were their own. We pray for those men who have "fathered" us in their role as mentors and guides

We ask your blessings on those men who are about to become fathers; may they openly delight in their children.

And we continue to pray for those fathers who have died, but live on in our memories and whose love continues to nurture us.

May the love of our earthly fathers draw us ever nearer to you and perfect in us the image of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen