

LOYOLA PRESS.

A JESUIT MINISTRY

A Parent's Prayer

Loving God,
You are the giver of all we possess,
the source of all of our blessings.
We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children.

Help us to set boundaries for them,
and yet encourage them to explore.
Give us the strength and courage to treat
each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow
in faith, hope, and love,
so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice.
May their eyes see your presence in all things.
May their lips proclaim your word.
May their hearts be your dwelling place.
May their hands do works of charity.
May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ,
your Son and our Lord.
Amen.

Mardi Gras Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for it is from
your goodness that we have this day to celebrate on
the threshold of the Season of Lent.

Tomorrow we will fast and abstain from meat. Today
we feast. We thank you especially for one another. As
we give you thanks, we are mindful of those who have
so much less than we do. As we share these
wonderful gifts together, we commit ourselves to
greater generosity toward those who need our
support.

Prepare us for tomorrow. Tasting the fullness of what
we have today, let us experience some hunger
tomorrow. May our fasting make us more alert and
may it heighten our consciousness so that we might
be ready to hear your Word and respond to your call.

As our feasting fills us with gratitude, so may our
fasting and abstinence hollow out in us a place for
deeper desires and an attentiveness to hear the cry of
the poor. May our self-denial turn our hearts to you
and give us a new freedom for generous service to
others.

We ask you these graces with our hearts full of delight
and stirring with readiness for the journey ahead. We
ask them with confidence in the name of Jesus the
Lord.