

### *A Prayer for a Passionate, Creative Love*

*Lord, send out your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth.  
Father, Jesus gave his life  
because he loved deeply and completely.  
May our love for one another  
be all encompassing and all consuming.  
Make our love be pleasurable.  
Make it be as creative as it is stable,  
as passionate as it is respectful,  
as gentle as it is strong,  
so that all who know us will see in our  
love the hand of you, our creator.  
If and when we are blessed with children,  
may they thrive in the passionate and energizing love  
that has its beginning in the love you have for the world  
and all its peoples.  
We ask this through Jesus, our Lord and brother.  
Amen.*

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## *A Prayer for Understanding*

*Lord, help us to always seek first  
to understand each other, to lead with compassion,  
and to walk a while in the other's experience.  
Help us walk the road of marriage together,  
trusting that when we doubt you will give us faith,  
that when we criticize you will give us the courage to seek  
and offer forgiveness.*

*Make our love for one another burn in our hearts  
in tough times as well as in the easy times.  
May your Spirit renew our love again and again  
so that we may give witness to your saving presence in  
our lives.*

*Amen.*

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## *A Prayer for Perseverance*

*Lord Jesus, in the garden of Gethsemane  
you did not want to face the pain you knew would happen  
to you.*

*Yet you persevered and did not run from what lay ahead  
of you.*

*Guide us gently to face our fears.*

*Like your disciples in the storm-tossed boat,  
we sometimes feel swamped by life's indifferent pressures.*

*May your presence always comfort us and lead us beyond  
fear to hope.*

*Help us to develop confidence in our own skills;  
let us face our future with confidence in your sustaining  
presence.*

*Amen.*

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### *A Prayer to Tobias and Sarah*

*Tobias and Sarah, pray for us as we begin a life together.  
You risked your reputation and your lives  
for the sake of your love for each other.  
Keep us faithful to our own journey of love.  
Guide us to do what is right, not what others say is right.  
May we be helpmates and partners to each other  
and may God's Spirit keep us single-minded in our  
fidelity.  
May your spirit teach us about energy and zeal for God's  
love;  
as we walk our journey together may God's love always  
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## *To Saints Anna and Joachim: On Children*

*We pray that our children will reach their full potential in the eyes of God, as did your daughter Mary, mother of Jesus our Lord.*

*May God's Holy Spirit lead us in the way of wonder and love so that when we become parents we will provide a home full of care, comfort, and structure.*

*Teach us to be a family that is holy, one that sees in every person the dwelling place for God's Spirit.*

*As you taught your daughter Mary, teach us to value our children for who they are, not so much for what they can do.*

*May God keep us always loving and present to the many joys, struggles, and hopes that our children possess.*

*Amen.*

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## *For Forgiveness: A Prayer to St. Peter*

*Peter, whom Jesus called Rock,  
you know the pain and agony of having denied your  
friend and master.  
Yet you were forgiven and called to mighty deeds.  
Peter, you were married when Jesus called you to leave  
your nets and follow him.  
Was your wife your silent partner?  
Did she anchor you to reality when you dreamed wild  
schemes  
and plans for the newborn church?  
Did you have to seek her forgiveness for the excesses of  
your enthusiasm?  
Pray for us, Rock of the church,  
when we fail our commitments  
and even betray our friendship with each other.  
Help us see that beyond the hurt and pain lies the grace of  
renewal.  
As Jesus forgave you,  
may we forgive each other and not harbor lasting  
resentment.  
May our attitude always be as a child  
who quickly forgets the hurt  
because of the consoling presence of a loving friend.  
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## *A Prayer Concerning Conflict*

*Jesus, were there ever times when you became angry with your friends?*

*When you rebuked Peter and called him "Satan," were you angry because he tried to control what you were saying?*

*Show us that conflict can be holy ground, that it need not be destructive.*

*Keep us honest and respectful of each other when we fight.*

*Lead us to take responsibility for our words and actions.*

*Remind us that we can always do better, especially if we hit below the belt by name-calling and harsh criticism.*

*Above all else, send us your Spirit to lead us in the way of respect and honesty, so that our love may continue to deepen through the years.*

*Amen.*

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### *A Prayer to Abraham and Sarah*

*Abraham and Sarah, you risked all to journey to a new  
land you did not know.  
And when you were old and beyond your childbearing  
years,  
God granted your wish for a son.  
You dared to dream, to laugh, and to hope in the promise  
of God.  
Pray for us as we begin our journey of love.  
Give us some of your vision.  
May our dreams be rooted in the passion, perseverance,  
and humor  
that the two of you possessed.  
May God always lead us into our future.  
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### *To Sarah, on Laughter*

*When the angel announced to Abraham  
that you would bear a son,  
you laughed because you were old and beyond your years.  
Yet God laughed with you and gave you Isaac.  
We pray that our marriage be for us a place of safety and  
a place of mirth.  
May God keep our commitment to one another strong  
and our love ever growing.  
May we be able to laugh at ourselves  
and not take ourselves too seriously.  
With the help of the Spirit  
may we transcend our limitations and sinfulness.  
As we grow older, we pray that we, too,  
can laugh and play in God's presence.  
Amen.*

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## *The Covenant of Our Marriage*

*Father, you are creator of all things,  
and you renew our commitments even when we fail  
to keep our end of the covenant we make with you.  
Keep us faithful to the covenant we enter together.  
Help us realize that your sustaining presence  
will guide us through the tough times that we will face.  
When we are tempted to turn away from each other,  
help us face our fears.  
And when we want to blame the other for not meeting  
our needs,  
teach us to take responsibility for ourselves.  
Help us celebrate and proclaim  
the lasting quality of our commitment to each other,  
so that in seeing our love  
others may see your presence.  
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## *The Prayer of All Christians*

*Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
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