



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Next week, on Friday, November 12, I'll be offering a Generational Healing Mass at 7:00pm. Over the course of several years, I have offered Healing Masses quarterly for the parish (in 2022, I'm actually going to be having Healing Masses almost every month). These Masses are focused on Jesus' healing presence in the Eucharist coming and healing us of our infirmities. Over the years, I have seen Jesus heal all manner of physical ailments, set people free from addictions, and bring healing to deep inner wounds of the heart.

A Generational Healing Mass, though, is a different format. The Generational Healing Mass is focused not so much on *my* ailment that I have here and now, but, rather, looks at family patterns. Prior to the Mass, you are invited to look through your family tree to see the areas of physical ailments, emotional wounds, addictions, and habits of sin. (For help with this, you can print up a copy of the "Preparation of Family Tree" found on our parish website: click on "Healing Masses" under "Sacraments & Prayer.") You write up all that you know or suspect from your family tree, and bring it with an envelope (you may want to hold off from sealing it until after the homily... people have said that they realized they needed to add things). These will be collected during the offertory and placed at the altar. After the Mass, they will be destroyed, unopened.

The intention of this Healing Mass is to recognize these areas of brokenness, sin, evil, and/or darkness and invite Jesus into our bloodlines, asking Him to heal us, our whole family, and break all of us from the effects of these areas of darkness. We can all recognize these family patterns. Some are natural (i.e.- genetic), where we recognize a history of a certain type of cancer in a family. Others might be areas of trauma that keep popping up (for instance, we might recognize in a particular family more than usual occurrences of violent deaths). We might recognize patterns of behavior that are passed down from generation to generation ("Boy, he really has his father's temper!"). No matter whether genetic, learned, or otherwise, we invite the Holy Spirit into these bloodlines, asking Him to put an end to these patterns of brokenness, and to heal our families.

I was listening to a podcast recently where the host shared his own experience of praying for healing for the family lines. He and his father began praying for their ancestors, those of his generation, and those after (their children). They pray, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on all of our ancestors." They then go through name by name: "Have mercy on my great-grandfather Billy. Have mercy on my grandfather Fred," and so on. Then they pray, "Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant our ancestors peace. Grant my great-grandfather Billy peace. Grant my grandfather Fred peace," and so on through the family names. (See the "Ask Christopher West Podcast" episode 146.)

As I shared last week, Jesus really is our Divine Healer! When we invite Him into our lives with trust, He does touch our lives. I encourage you to invite Jesus into all of the darkness and brokenness you personally experience, as well as that of your whole family.