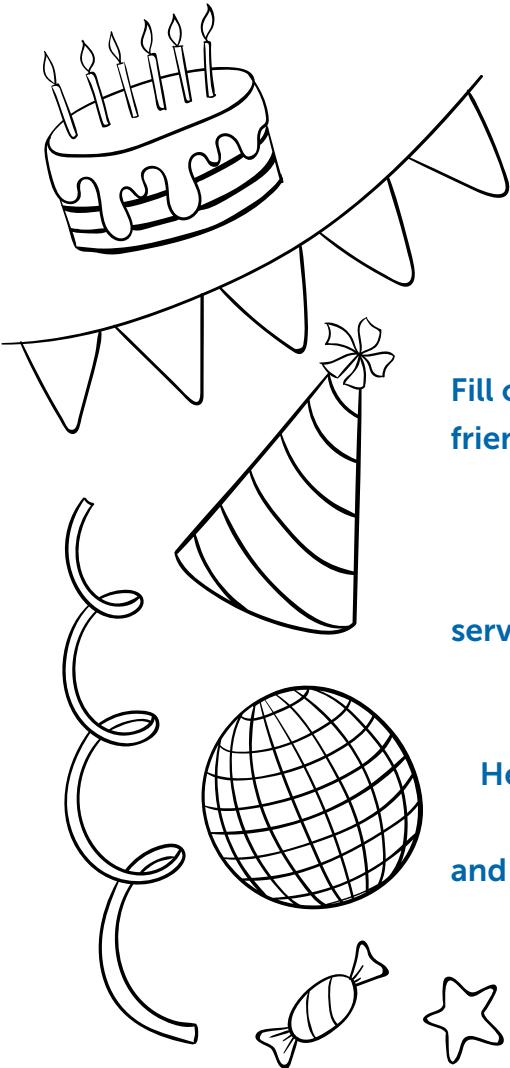


THE NEW YEAR

Begin by inviting family members to bring their personal calendars or your family calendar and to gather around the Christmas tree.

Sing together a favorite Christmas carol, and pray together the Sign of the Cross.

Have family members hold their calendars/your family calendar up for all to see, and offer the following prayer.

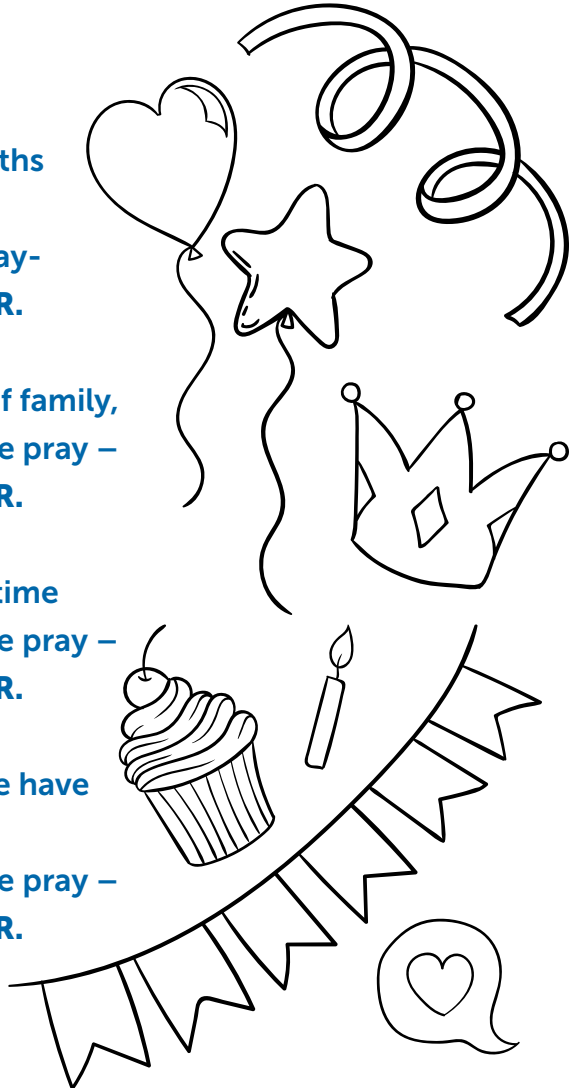


**God of all time,
on this New Year's Day
we place the days and months
of the new year
into your hands, and we pray –
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**Fill our days with the blessings of family,
friendship, laughter, and love, we pray –
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**Show us ways to spend our time
serving your children in need, we pray –
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

**Help us appreciate the time we have
to listen to your Word
and to talk with you in prayer, we pray –
LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**



(Remind the family that January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and conclude this prayer by praying together the Hail Mary or by singing together the verse of a familiar Marian hymn.)

You may wish to follow prayer with a family discussion about ways you want to spend time together as family in the coming year. Consider activities and plans that include sharing faith, sharing leisure time, trying new recipes, exploring things your town or city has to offer, and the like.