

Blessing of the Home and Household on Epiphany

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply, "Amen."

The leader greets those present in the following words:
Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever.
R/. Blessed be God forever.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 19:1-9:

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.> When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

The intercessions are then said:

Leader: The Son of God made his home among us. With thanks and praise let us call upon him.

R/. Stay with us, Lord.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, with Mary and Joseph you formed the Holy Family: remain in our home, that we may know you as our guest and honor you as our Head. We pray:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, you had no place to lay your head, but in the spirit of poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends: grant that through our help the homeless may obtain proper housing. We pray:

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, the three kings presented their gifts to you in praise and adoration: grant that those living in this house may use their talents and abilities to your greater glory. We pray:

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:

Lord God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star.
Bless this house
and all who inhabit it.
Fill them (us) with the light of Christ,
that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May Christ Jesus dwell with us,
keep us from all harm,
and make us one in mind and heart,
now and forever.
R/. Amen.

It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song, for example, "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "We Three Kings."

JANUARY 2018

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The Family that Prays Together Stays Together





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Write Your Own Holy Card

As Catholics, we're used to praying prayers that we find on holy cards. It's a beautiful tradition, but sometimes it can feel like the prayer we are praying is hard to fully make our own. We don't have to be saints to write our own carefully crafted prayers—prayers that help us enter more fully into the different seasons of our life. During the month of January, we would like you and your family or those around you to write / make your own holy card. Think of someone who needs your prayer and make a Holy Card for that person and then give it to them.

Possible Holy Card

- Marriage
- Children
- Anniversary
- Lent/Holy Week/Easter/Pentecost
- Birthdays
- Baptism
- Sick
- Lonely

Give the Holy Card

- To children
- To your spouse
- To grandchildren
- To your parish priest, catechists, or anyone you think the prayer/Holy Card would be useful.

Structure of the prayer

- What is your/the person situation?
- What do you want the Lord/Mary/Saint to do for you or for the person?
- What would you do if your prayer is answered?

Sample Prayer to St. John Paul II

John Paul II,
 Pray for me that I would come to understand God's
 plan of sheer goodness in my life and
 experience the peace and love that results from
 my adoption as a son.
 Pray for me, that I would more fully participate in
 the sacraments and liturgy and that I would
 fruitfully live out God's mission in my
 home, my parish and my work.
 I pray that my light will shine in the world for Jesus,
 and that I will demonstrate that
 I have been crucified with Christ, and no
 longer live for myself, but for the Lord.
 By your example, I have come to know the importance
 of prayer and redemptive suffering.
 Help me to establish a foundation of prayer and a depth
 of intimacy that both God and my heart thirst for.
 In Christ I pray, Amen!



Sample Card design

Some prayers we can say this month

Prayer for Families

We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over this family,
so that in the strength of your grace
its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this thought Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer for Students

Lord our God,
in your wisdom and love
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.

Send your Spirit upon these students
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.
Grant that they may
devote themselves to their studies
and draw ever closer to you,
the source of all knowledge.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.