

Home Blessing

**It is an encouraged practice to bless your home annually. Even if your home has already been blessed by a priest, renewing your household's commitment to Christ is a good practice.*

**Quickly review the blessing, assigning each family member a part.*

**Begin in the main area of the home near a statue of the Holy Family or St. Joseph. (Optional: Light a candle.)*

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here among us; may he nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, comfort us in our sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, let us seek to make our home before all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ.

Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians (Col 3:12-17)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**After the scripture reading, all go from room to room, sprinkling holy water (and blessed salt, if desired). You may choose a song to sing or read from the following prayers.*

At the entrance:

Leader: O God, protect our going out and our coming in; Let us share the hospitality of this home with all who visit us, that those who enter here may know your love and peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the living room:

Leader: O God, give your blessings to all who share this room, that we may be grow together in companionship. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the kitchen:

Leader: O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on us, as we work in this kitchen, and make us ever thankful for our daily bread. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the dining room:

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Help us to be grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the bedrooms:

Leader: Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, we may rest in his peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

In the bathroom:

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. You formed us in wisdom and love. Refresh us in body and in spirit, and keep us in good health that we might serve you. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

**After blessing the inside of the home, go outside. Walk the property line, sprinkling holy water and blessed salt.*

Outside the home:

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, protector of the Church and of all families, we ask that our home be a place of love and holiness. Defend us from all temptations and any evil that works to divide us from each other and from you. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

**Upon returning inside, conclude the home blessing in the same area you began.*

Leader: Let us pray the prayer that our Savior taught us.

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven...

Leader: Be our shelter, Lord, when we are at home, our companion when we are away, and our welcome guest when we return and at last receive us into the dwelling place you have prepared for us in your Father's house, where you live forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts (*make a cross over your heart*), and may the word of Christ in all its richness dwell in us, so that whatever we do, we will do in the name of the Lord.

All: Amen.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.