

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 60:1–6

Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 10–11,  
12–13 (see 11)

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

Matthew 2:1–12

## Prayer before the Nativity Scene

Lord our God,  
here in a humble stable we see Joseph  
and Mary  
keeping watch over their newborn son.  
We see poor shepherds and animals  
whose manger serves as a bed for this baby,  
the Christ child:  
Mary's son and God's Son,  
helpless infant and mighty God.  
We are reminded of the happy truth  
of Christmas:  
"The Word became flesh and made his  
dwelling among us" (John 1:14).  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Ritual

Today we bless the doorways to our homes  
so we can welcome travelers and all who  
pass through them. With a piece of chalk  
write the following: 20 + C + M + B + 18. The  
20 and 18 on either end represent the year

that has begun. The four crosses remind us  
of the four seasons and the letters are the  
initials of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and  
Balthazar. Let it remind you to be welcoming  
all year long.

## Conversation Questions

- ☉ During this Christmas season, how have you been led closer to Jesus?
- ☉ The Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus. If you were to join them, what gifts would you bring to Jesus?

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

The Wise Men traveled far to see the baby Jesus. Invite your family to travel to a different parish for Mass. Choose a parish and do a little research on it before attending Mass. Afterward, ask your family to share similarities and differences between your parish and this one.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19  
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7–8, 8–9,  
10 (8a and 9a)  
1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a,  
17–20  
John 1:35–42

### Prayer before the Bible

Living God,  
your holy words, spoken long ago to people  
far away,  
are spoken to us, here and now.  
As we listen, fill our hearts with reverence  
and our minds with curiosity.  
Bring us back to your Word day after day,  
in times of joy and sorrow,  
in light and darkness,  
for “your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Ritual

**This week, recite the Prayer before the Bible and spend time reading portions of Psalm 119 (a prayer to God, the Lawgiver) aloud from the Bible. Allow a few moments of silence and then invite each family member to describe what word or words in the psalm stood out for him/her.**

**(This psalm is very long. It gives praise to God for his laws and instructions. It is also read at Sunday Mass on the Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time.)**

### Conversation Questions

- ☉ How does your private prayer and your participation in the worshipping community bring you closer to Jesus?
- ☉ What does Jesus want you to “come and see”? about yourself? about others? about the Church?
- ☉ How has your participation in the life of your parish helped you to come to know Jesus Christ?

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Do you take the time in your family to talk about God’s call or vocations? Explain that each of us discerns a way to live our Baptismal call: for example, through single or married life, priesthood or consecrated life. Go to [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) to find out more about vocations and to download a prayer to know one’s vocation.

Recall that we bless ourselves with holy water upon entering or leaving the church, which reminds us of our Baptismal commitment and our continuing journey as Christ’s disciples.



# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 21, 2018

### **Scripture Readings**

Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (4a)

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

Mark 1:14–20

## Prayer before the Bible

Living God,  
your holy words, spoken long ago to people  
far away,  
are spoken to us, here and now.  
As we listen, fill our hearts with reverence  
and our minds with curiosity.  
Bring us back to your Word day after day,  
in times of joy and sorrow,  
in light and darkness,  
for “your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Ritual

Each day this week, after family prayers,  
have a different family member talk about  
how Jesus Christ is calling him or her to be  
a good disciple.

## Conversation Questions

☉ How do you experience the presence of Christ in your life? How will you “turn around” to be a better disciple of Christ?

☉ What is your greatest dream or hope concerning how you can make the world a better place? What is one step that you can take right now towards that goal?

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

As a family, plan a night of outreach. You might invite others over for an evening activity at home. Do you know anyone who might be in need of companionship, or is new to the area, or facing some personal challenges? Offering a night of hospitality is a way for your family to learn compassion and giving, as well as giving consolation and comfort to another who needs it. Consider other ways you might practice outreach and how often.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 7–9 (8)

1 Corinthians 7:32–35

Mark 1:21–28

## Prayer before the Bible

Living God,  
your holy words, spoken long ago to people  
far away,  
are spoken to us, here and now.  
As we listen, fill our hearts with reverence  
and our minds with curiosity.  
Bring us back to your Word day after day,  
in times of joy and sorrow,  
in light and darkness,  
for “your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Conversation Questions

- ☉ What is one way we can help bring peace to our family and/or community?
- ☉ What “evil spirit”—negative thought, anxiety, or sin—do I need Jesus to cast out?

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Instead of “time outs,” try “prayer outs” whenever your child is feeling sad, angry, anxious, or frustrated. Pray with your child if he or she is having trouble calming down. Call upon Jesus Christ to expel the bad feelings and bring about a sense of peace.

## Ritual

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, there are two forms of exorcism, one of which is the minor form. “Minor exorcisms are prayers used to break the influence of evil and sin in a person’s life, whether as a catechumen preparing for Baptism or as one of the baptized faithful striving to overcome the influence of evil and sin in his or her life.” *The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) and the *Rite of Baptism for Children* both call for minor exorcisms.