

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 made flesh and made his
dwelling with 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 Christmas Time, 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

Celebrate the Solemnity of Epiphany by baking a king's cake. As you mix the batter, add a small dried bean. The person who gets the bean in his or her piece of cake is the king for the day. Point out that being a king like Jesus means serving others, not making others serve you. The king can decide on a service project to do together during the week. You might inquire at your parish when the Christmas decorations will come down. Volunteer as a family to help take the decorations down and put them into storage at the parish.

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

We want to grow in holiness, closer to the one who calls us. Growing in holiness is a commitment. For these next few weeks, commit to doing one thing that will help you and your family grow in holiness. This week, take time to read the readings before attending Mass. Read the footnotes in your Bible and discuss the passages. Actively participate.

Conversation Questions

- ☺ How do we help each other to discover what God is calling us to do? Do we encourage action once we know what God wants from us?
- ☺ 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 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

- ☉ When was the last time you were invited to try something new?
- ☉ In what ways are we trying to be good disciples of Jesus?

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.

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.

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.