

## Blessing Your Children

“The Gospels record that children were presented to Jesus, so that he might bless them and lay hands on them. Christian parents wish to bestow this blessing of the Lord on their own children and the practice of a blessing by parents is a tradition treasured by many peoples. The blessing may be celebrated on special occasions in the life of the children or whenever the family gathers for prayer or for reflection on sacred Scripture.”

-*Order for the Blessing of Sons and Daughters*, § 174

*All make the Sign of the Cross*

*Introductory Prayer (these or similar words):*

My dear family, let us praise God our Father, who has made us his children by adoption.

To God be glory now and for ever.

*All respond:* To God be glory now and for ever.

*Preparation for the Blessing (these or similar words):*

Our children are the sign and pledge of God’s blessing. They are living proof of God’s presence, filling our home with joy and happiness. As we cherish and respect our children, and they cherish and respect us, their parents, we teach one another reverence for God, so that we might grow in wisdom and grace, holding to whatever is true, upright and virtuous, and living in the world as God’s witnesses and heralds.

*Reading from Scripture (this or another short verse, as appropriate):*

We read in the holy gospel according to Matthew:

“Children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the parents, but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

*Responsorial Psalm (or other suitable song - optional)*

“Happy are those who fear the Lord.” (Psalm 128)

*Intercessions (these or others may be composed)*

- Loving Father, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son; keep us, your children reborn in baptism, in your love. We pray...
- Your favor rested fully on the Son you loved; grant that each one of us may successfully carry out the responsibilities entrusted to us in the world and in the Church. We pray...
- As your Son was growing up, you placed him in the tender care of Mary and Joseph; grant that your children may grow to the full maturity of Christ. We pray...
- You show a special love for those who are alone and abandoned; through the help of the Christian community let all children who are deprived of a family’s love know that you are their loving Father. We pray...

*Prayer of Blessing (trace the sign of the cross on your child’s forehead, then say the prayer of blessing)*

Father, inexhaustible source of life and author of all good, we bless you and we thank you for brightening our communion of love by your gift of children. Grant that our children/child (N.) will find in the life of this family such inspiration that they (he/she) will strive always for what is right and good and one day, by your grace, reach their (his/her) home in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Concluding Rite (while making the Sign of the Cross – choose one)*

- A. May the Lord Jesus, who loved children, bless us and keep us in his love, now and for ever. Amen.
- B. May the Lord keep you and make you grow in his love, so that you may live worthy of the calling he has given you, now and for ever. Amen.