

The father (or if not available, the mother or other family leader) now sprinkles those present and all the rooms of the house with holy water and, as circumstances suggest, during the sprinkling may say the following or other appropriate prayer:

Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ, who has redeemed us by his death and resurrection.

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Parent:

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and may the word of Christ in all its richness dwell in us, so that whatever we do in word and in work, we will do in the name of the Lord.

R. Amen.

You may end the celebration with a suitable song, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Blessing the Home with Holy Water

This Order of Blessing is for use by families. The scriptures can be read by anyone; family members may want to take turns.

While maintaining the structure and chief elements of the rite, the celebration can be adapted to the circumstances of the place and the people involved.

A home is not blessed unless those who will live in it are present.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Parent (while all make the sign of the cross):

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Parent:

May the God whom we glorify with one heart and voice enable us, through the Spirit, to live in harmony as followers of Christ Jesus, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Parent:

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 you; may he nurture your love for each other, share in your joys, comfort you in your sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, seek to make your new home before all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

Listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke 10:5-9:

The Lord said to the seventy-two: "Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

Or the following scriptures may be used instead:

Mark 1:29-30 (Jesus went straight to Simon's house.)

Luke 10:38-42 (Martha welcomed Jesus into her house.)

Luke 19:1-9 (Today salvation has come to this house.)

Luke 24:28-32 (Stay with us.)

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 112)

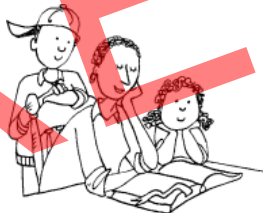
Response: Happy are those who fear the LORD.

Happy are those who fear the LORD,
who greatly delight in his commands.
His posterity shall be mighty on the earth;
the upright generation shall be blessed. **R.**

Wealth and riches shall be in his house;
his generosity shall endure forever.
He dawns through the darkness, a light for the upright;
he is gracious and merciful and just. **R.**

Well for those who are gracious and lends,
who conduct their affairs with justice;
They shall never be moved;
the just ones shall be in everlasting remembrance. **R.**

An evil report they shall not fear;
their heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.
Their heart is steadfast; they shall not fear
till they look down upon their foes. **R.**
Lavishly they give to the poor;
their generosity shall endure forever;
their horn shall be exalted in glory. **R.**



The family now shares their thoughts and insights about the biblical text with each other.

INTERCESSIONS

Anyone may present announce the following intentions, which may be adapted, and other intentions may be added.

Parent:

The Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, made his home among us. With thankfulness and gladness we call upon him:

Response: Stay with us, Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your life with Mary and Joseph you sanctified the life of the home; dwell with us in our home, so that we may have you as our guest and honor you as our Head. For this we pray: **R.**

In you every dwelling grows into a holy temple; grant that those who live in this house may be built up together into the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit. For this we pray: **R.**

You taught your followers to build their houses upon solid rock; grant that the members of this family may hold fast to your teachings and, free of all discord, serve you with their whole heart. For this we pray: **R.**

You had no place to lay your head, but in uncomplaining poverty you accepted the hospitality of your friends; grant that through our help people who are homeless may obtain decent housing. For this we pray: **R.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Parent:

Lord, be close to those who live in this house and seek your blessing. Be our shelter when we're at home, our companion when we're 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 for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

