

These blessings can be included in the parish website & flagged in the parish bulletin.

Family Prayer for Blessing the Advent Wreath

All make the Sign of the Cross

Parent or other family member: Today we begin our preparation to celebrate, with hope-filled joy, the coming of our Lord at Christmas. Before we ask God to bless our family Advent wreath we take a moment to listen to God's Word.

*The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
On those who live in a land of deep darkness
A light has shone...
For there is a child born for us,
A son given to us
Authority rests upon his shoulders
And he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (From Isaiah 9:1-6)*

Blessing: (While a member of the family lights the first candle)

Lord our God,
We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ;
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the Saviour of every nation.

Lord our God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us
salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen. Come Lord Jesus.



All make the Sign of the Cross

Family Prayer for Blessing the Christmas Tree

This blessing can be prayed on the day that the family turns on the lights of this year's Christmas tree for the first time. Once the lights are ready to be switched on the prayer can begin:

All make the Sign of the Cross

Parent or other family Member:

Lord our God,
we praise you for the light of creation:
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.
We praise you for the light of Israel:
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the
Scriptures.
We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,
who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy
of the Christmas gift of salvation and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

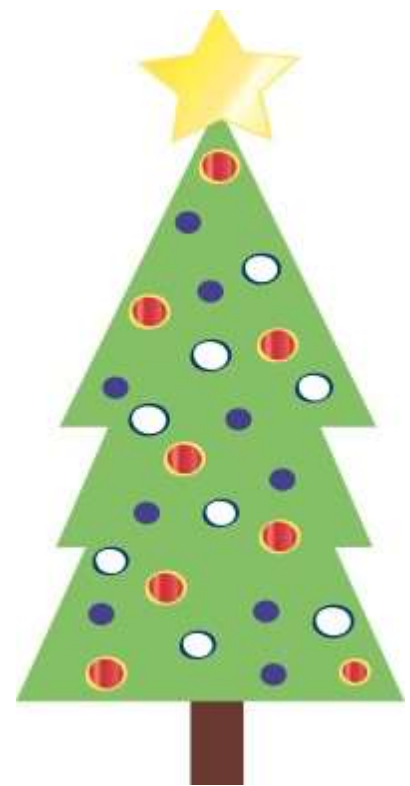
R. Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

The lights are switched on.

(Hymn option:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.)*

All make the Sign of the Cross



Blessing the Christmas Manger in the Home

All make the sign of the cross

Parent or other family Member: With hope-filled joy, we await the coming of our Lord at Christmas. Before we ask God to bless our Christmas manger we take a moment to listen to God's Word from the Gospel of St. Luke.

Now at that this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's house and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night.

A member of the family places the final figures into the nativity scene. The following blessing is then recited:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.
Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger,
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *R.* Amen. Come Lord Jesus.



All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son...

All make the sign of the cross