



Blessing of a Home

May 2016

Book of Blessings:

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

Peace be with you.

Welcome

Introduction

(Book of Blessings 571)

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.

Gospel according to Luke (Book of Blessings 572)

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke:

Peace to this house.

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.'"

Psalm Verses (Book of Blessings 574)

Response:The Lord will build a house for us.

1. Happy the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commands. His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth; the upright generation shall be blessed.

Response: The Lord will build a house for us

2. 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.

Response: The Lord will build a house for us

Intercessions (from the Book of Blessings)

The Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, made his home among us, With thankfulness and gladness let us call upon him, saying: **Stay with us Lord**

1. 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.

Lord Hear Us

Response: Stay with us Lord

2. 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.

Lord Hear Us

Response: Stay with us Lord

3. 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.

Lord Hear Us

Response: Stay with us Lord

4. 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.

Lord Hear Us

Response: Stay with us Lord

Bless the Holy Water

A priest may wish to take a small bottle to the home. He could ask for a jug, water and salt to carry out the following blessing. Holy Water remaining after the blessing, could be put into the bottle and left with the family.

A lay person could take the bottle of Holy Water to the home.

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters)
Let us humbly beseech the Lord our God
to bless this water he has created
which will be sprinkled on us
as a memorial to Baptism.
May he help us by his grace
to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.

And after a brief pause for silence, he continues with hands joined:

Almighty ever-living God
who willed that through water,
the fountain of life and source of purification,
even souls should be cleansed
and receive the gift of eternal life;
be pleased, we pray, to + bless this water,
by which we seek protection on this your day, O Lord.
Renew the living spring of your grace within us
and grant that by this water we may be defended
from all ills of spirit and body,
and so approach you with hearts made clean
and worthily receive your salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Bless the Salt

We humbly ask you, almighty God:
be pleased in your faithful love to bless + this salt
you have created,
for it was you who commanded the prophet Elisha
to cast salt into water,
that, impure water might be purified.
grant, O Lord, we pray,
that, wherever this mixture of salt and water is sprinkled,
every attack of the enemy shall be repulsed
and your Holy Spirit may be present
to keep us safe at all times.
through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Salt is sprinkled into the water.

All present bless themselves and continue with the blessing
of the home.

Blessing of the Home

I heard a loud voice call from the throne,
“You see this city?
Here God lives among people.
He will make his home among them;
they shall be his people,
and he will be their God;
His name is God-with-them.”

Introduction:

Father, bless this house
and fill it with your presence.
Let your peace rest
upon those who make their home here.
and upon all who visit.
In the Spirit of your Son,
in the spirit of love,
may all children find welcome here.

Kitchen

Our Father,
food shared between mother and child
is your first gift,
is the first taste we know of love.
May the preparations of food,
the work of love done in this room,
be a sign always
that you dwell forever with us
in the smallest things of your world even
in our daily bread.

Bathroom

Father,
water, too, is your gift to us:
a sign of cleansing,
a wonder of refreshment,
the very possibility of life.
Keep us aware of our new life in you, through Baptism
and of your need of our cleansed hands
to touch our world with love.
This most precious gift of water.

Bedrooms

Father,
sleep is a source of strength in our lives.
Grant us all the deep peace with you
that will let us rest soundly,
so that we may return to your world each day
awakened to your presence
and alive to your call.

Living Room

Father,
no room will have life
unless touched by your love.
You have given us new life in your Spirit
only that it may be shared,
for each of us has a special love
that only he or she can give.
If each of us is not filled with happiness
some darkness will be without your light.

Dining Area

Bless us and this room, Father,
in ways known best to you,
for only you fathom our deepest needs.
Through your grace,
our need is more than filled in this home,
in its nourishment,
in its shelter.
Teach us to share, Father.
Teach us to share your basic gifts of food, and life and love.

Gospel Verse:

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back. (LK. 6: 36-38)

Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light:
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I
may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying, that we are born
to eternal life.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy
Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

Conclusion

Lord,
be close to your servants
who have moved into this home
and ask for your blessing.
Be their shelter when they are at home,
their companion when they are away,
and their welcome guest when they return.
And at last receive them
into the dwelling place you have prepared for them
in your Father's house,
where you live for ever and ever.

Amen

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.

Amen

Blessing:

May the feet of God walk with you Amen
God's hand hold you safely . . . Amen

May the eye of God rest on you . . . Amen
And God's ear hear your cry . . . Amen

May the smile of God be for you . . . Amen

God's Spirit give you life . . . Amen

May God's love and compassion enfold you . . . Amen
God's love bring you home . . . Amen

And may the risen Lord, Jesus
Be with you now and forever . . . Amen

Amen

A lovely gesture is to present the family with a certificate of blessing.