

# Blessing for a Family or Household

*All make the sign of the cross.*

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and forever.  
R. Amen.

Leader: From the Sacrament of Marriage the family has received newness of life and the grace of Christ. The family is especially important to the Church and to civil society, for it is the primary life-giving community. In our celebration today we call down the Lord's blessing upon us, so that we may continually be instruments of God's grace to one another and witnesses to faith in all the circumstances of life. With God as our help we fulfil our mission by conforming our entire life to the Gospel and so witness to Christ before the world.

Reader: Listen to the words of the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians: (Ephesians 4:1-6)  
I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. The Word of the Lord.  
R. Thanks be to God.

Leader: Christ the Lord, the Word coeternal with the Father, lived among us and chose to be part of a family and to enrich it with his blessings. Let us humbly ask his favour and protection on this family:  
R. Lord, keep our family in your peace.

Leader: Through your own obedience to Mary and Joseph you consecrated family life; make this family holy by your presence. For this we pray:  
R. Lord, keep our family in your peace.

Leader: You made your family the model of prayer, of love, and of obedience to your Father's will; by your grace make this family holy and make it rich with your gifts.  
For this we pray:  
R. Lord, keep our family in your peace.

Leader: Now let us pray as Christ the Lord taught us...  
R. Our Father...

Leader: O God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. Shower your blessings on this family gathered here in your name. Enable those who are joined by one love to support one another by their fervour of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do. Through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen.

*The leader may sprinkle all with holy water if desired.*

Leader: May the Lord Jesus, who lived with his Holy Family in Nazareth, dwell also with our family, keep it from all evil, and make all of us one in heart and mind.  
R. Amen.

*All make the sign of the cross.*



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