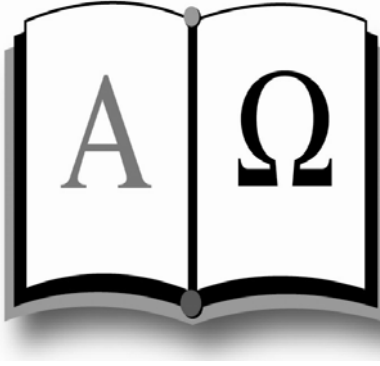


FAMILY BIBLE BLESSING

Set prayer table with a lit candle, some object of family significance and a bible



Let us begin: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

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

The leader may use these or similar words:

Lord, we are gathered here today to bless this bible to our use as a family. You are blessed and the source of every blessing. Be with us now and whenever we use this symbol of our faith, the bible. May we always strive to be transformed into the likeness of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. R. Amen

A family member holds the bible while all other members make a sign of the cross on the bible. When all have signed it, the Bible is placed on the Prayer Table

Leader: St. Paul urges us to give thanks to God always through Christ, for in him God has given us everything. Let us listen to the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians

(Another family member reads from the newly blessed bible)

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph 3:14-19

The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks Be to God

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader prays:

Gracious God, thank you for your gift of the Holy Bible. You inspired the prophets and the apostles, guiding them to eternalize the Sacred Word. Always maintain our faith in the Holy Word, believing it originated from the Holy Spirit. Continue to guide us through its Books, granting us insight and wisdom that we too, may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Together all pray:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.