

The Blessing of the Family Nativity Set

In many cultures, it is tradition to prepare the Nativity set, but to place the figures of the Holy Family and the Magi apart from the set. As Christmas approaches the figures of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are placed closer and closer to the manger. Following Christmas, the figures of the Magi also move closer and closer to the manger stall, to be placed there on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Begin by gathering the family around the Nativity set or Christmas manger scene.

Sing together "Away in a Manger" and pray together the Sign of the Cross. Then, offer the following prayer of blessing:

God of all creation,
this Nativity set reminds us of Jesus,
whose birth was witnessed
by the stars in the sky,
and the animals in the field.

(If you wish, invite the children to place around the crib the animals, angels, straw, etc.)

May this manger scene
remind us to prepare room
for Jesus to come into our home
and into our hearts
each and every day.

We ask this through
Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

