Restore the Roots

Cultivating Your Domestic Church A Liturgical Living Initiative of St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral, La Crosse, WI Advent

Blessing of an Advent Wreath

All make the Sign of the Cross.
Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All: Who made heaven and earth.
Reader: (Isaiah 9:1-2 &-6)
"But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.
Leader: "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 Savior of every nation.

Lord 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.
All: Amen.
Then light the first candle.
(Blessing from USCCB)



Blessing of the Nativity Scene

All make the Sign of the Cross.
Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
All: Who made heaven and earth.
Reader: (Luke 2:1-7)
"*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled 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 her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."*
The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Leader with hands joined: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior 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 our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
All: Amen.
(Blessing from USCCB)

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

All make the Sign of the Cross.
Leader: "Blessed be the name of the Lord."
All: "Now and forever."
Reader: A reading from the Apostle Paul to Titus:
"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."
Leader with hands joined: 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 salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.
The lights of the tree are then turned on.
(Blessing from "A Handbook of Prayers")

