

From the Book of Blessings

I. ORDER OF BLESSING

Introductory Rites

1682 When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the minister says:

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

All make the sign of the cross and reply: Amen.

May God, who has called us to be saints, be with you all.

And all reply: And with your spirit.

1685 In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.

Today we honor the memory of St. Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary and patron of the universal Church. We rejoice at this table, which is a sign of God's generous blessings and of our call to serve the poor and hungry. We pray that through the intercession of St. Joseph we too might join the saints at the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

1686 A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

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

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that his child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

**"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
Which means "God is with us."**

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise be to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Son of David will live for ever.

Psalm 89

The favors of the Lord I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness

R. The Son of David will live for ever.

For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness: "I have made a covenant with my chosen one. I have sworn to David my servant:

R. The Son of David will live for ever.

"Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R. The Son of David will live for ever.

The heavens proclaim your wonders, O Lord, and your faithfulness, in the assemble of the holy ones. For who in the skies can rank with the Lord?
Who is like the Lord among the sons of God?

R. The Son of David will live for ever.

INTERCESSIONS

1690 the intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intention. From the following those best suited to the occasion maybe used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says:

Let us call upon the name of the Lord through the intercession of St. Joseph.

R. Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

Assisting minister:

That we who have listened to the word of God may do his will, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

Assisting minister:

That we who have experienced doubt and fear may be helped in times of difficulty, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

Assisting minister:

That we may hunger for justice and mercy, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

Assisting minister:

That we who seek God's way may complete our journey to God's kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

Assisting minister:

That we who follow the example of St. Joseph, patron of the universal church, may strive always to build up the body of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, you are our hope and our strength.

1692 After the intercessions the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

Let us pray to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

All:

Our Father...

PRAYER OF BLESSING

1693 A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

All-provident God,

The good things that grace this table remind us of your many good gifts.

Bless this food,

And may the prayers of Saint Joseph, who provided bread for your Son and food for the poor, sustain us and all our brothers and sisters on our journey towards your heavenly kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

CONCLUDING RITE

1694 A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by saying:

Lord, you have given us the saints as our intercessors in heaven. May the prayers of Saint Joseph always help us to do your will and live in your love.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Then he blesses all present

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

1696 It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.