

# *Prayers & Liturgies For the Home*



# *A Prayer for Parents*

Grant me the wisdom to guide them down the path that their feet should take  
For I know that they can never turn back and walk those paths with me again  
Give me the wisdom to guide their feet so that someday they'll be able to walk  
alone.

They're only little once

Give me the time I need to enjoy them for I know that after they're grown  
I'll never have another chance to tell stories and pretend at those tea parties  
I'll never have another chance to watch them in a school play  
Or sing in church, or to see them catch their first fish  
Or score that first goal or hit that first home run ball.  
Give me the time in life's busy schedule to have fun with my children.

They're only little once

Let me be a loving parent  
Let me correct and not just punish, explain and not merely scold.  
Let me know when to correct, and how often,  
And when it's best to just look the other way.  
Help me be patient and give me a gentle hand to mould them into better people.

They're only little once

Let me be a good teacher and an even better example.  
Give me the right words and deeds to teach them.  
Help me to teach them about You and how to walk in Your ways  
So that when they are old they will not depart from Your ways.  
For they're only little one time, only innocent and trusting and pliable for a space  
of time, one minute in eternity.

Let me do my best for them while I have the chance.

Amen (*Author unknown*)



# Our Father,

Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against  
us;

and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

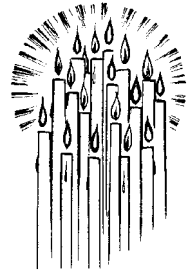
For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours,  
now and forever.

Amen

## A Liturgy for parents and Godparents before a meal

*On the table have a bowl of water and some lighted floating candles*

*Sit quietly and look at the lights*



### **Parents to read:**

God became human and Jesus lived among us experiencing life on earth as we do. God became like us so that we may become like God. We can glimpse the mystery of God's incarnation and re-creation in a new baby. A child is a gift from God - not a property to own and rule over, but a gift of life to cherish and care for with unconditional love.

### **Godparents to read:**

Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow  
Which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them,  
But seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.  
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.  
*[Kahlil Gibran]*

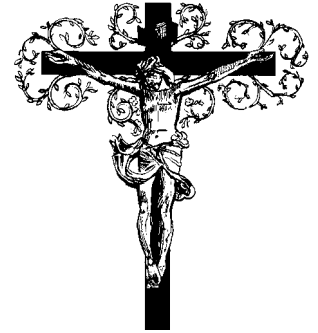
### **All say together:**

Thank you Lord, for the gift of children.  
Help us to remain your children. Amen.



## Liturgy for a special family meal before the Baptism

*On the table have a cross or crucifix  
Make the Sign of the Cross together  
(for babies and small children trace a cross on their forehead  
or touch the cross/crucifix on the table)  
Play gentle music in the background*



*(Please adapt the following to your own circumstances)*

### **The blessing**

Lord, we thank you for each one of us -  
For Dad's cooking  
For Mum's singing  
For Simon's giggles  
For Gemma's thoughtfulness

### **Prayer**

May God bless us with all good things,  
With peace, friendship, happiness, laughter .....

So that we can show we are truly God's friends.  
Amen

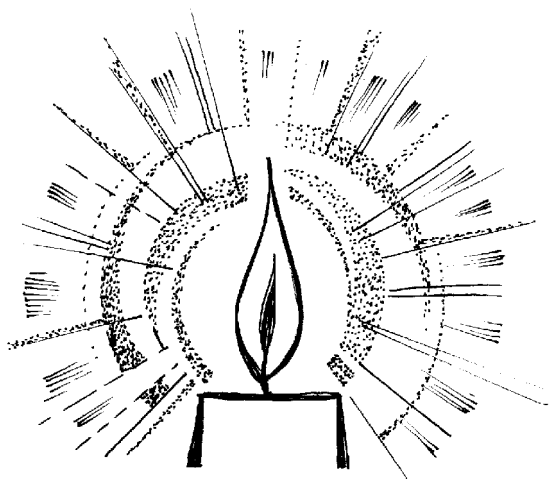
*During the meal discuss the Baptism with older children. Talk about their Baptism and what it means to them. Light their Baptism candle(s) and look at photos.*



### **Further Suggestions:**

- Ask older children to light the candle and read the prayer.
- Ask your parish priest to visit for a meal or cup of tea to talk about the Baptism with you.
- Invite godparents round for a special meal to discuss the Baptism service, their role and any questions (see page for a Liturgy for Parents and Godparents).

## Liturgy for a special family meal after the Baptism



*On the table have a cross or crucifix or a candle*

*Make the Sign of the Cross together  
(for babies and small children trace a cross  
on their forehead or touch the  
cross/crucifix on the table)*

*Play gentle music in the background*

### **Light the candle and the parents pray:**

Lord we ask you to help us to teach our children  
How to value and always search for the meaningful things in life.

We want them to search for the beauty and wonder  
that exists in the world which you created;  
for the truth that they may possess in order to live good lives,  
and for the love they need to develop into kind human beings.

Help us as parents and grandparents to inspire them  
To help them to appreciate all they learn  
and develop a deep rooted love and respect for all people.

Help them develop a strong sense of responsibility for their own lives  
And a genuine concern for the people they meet  
And for those who are less fortunate than them.

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and sensitivity we need  
To help our children become good, honest, caring, giving, and loving individuals.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Look at the lighted candle. How do you feel? Think of a word to describe how  
you are feeling. Have a moment of silence.*

*Talk about the Baptism throughout the meal and afterwards look at photographs*

### **Further suggestions:**

- Try to establish a routine of praying with children at mealtimes or bedtime
- Continue to make one meal a week special with a candle and simple prayer
- Invite godparents when possible eg First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, Confirmation, birthdays (especially 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>)