

Blessing of Nativity Scene

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Saviour 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 up our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Saviour of all,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.



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God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals,
bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene.

Through all the days of Christmas
may these figures tell the story
of how humans, angels, and animals
found the Christ in this poor place.

Fill our house with hospitality, joy,
gentleness, and thanksgiving,
and guide our steps in the way of peace.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Blessing of a Christmas Tree

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

Heavenly Father,
Creator of all that is,
bless ✠ with your abundant grace
this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy.
May its evergreen branches be a sign
of your never-fading promises.
May its colourful lights and ornaments call us
to decorate with love our homes and our world.
May the gifts that surround this tree
be symbols of the gifts we have received
from the Tree of Christ's Cross.
Lord, Jesus,
may Joy and Peace come and nest
in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.

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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.

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.
Amen.

(Source: USCCB)