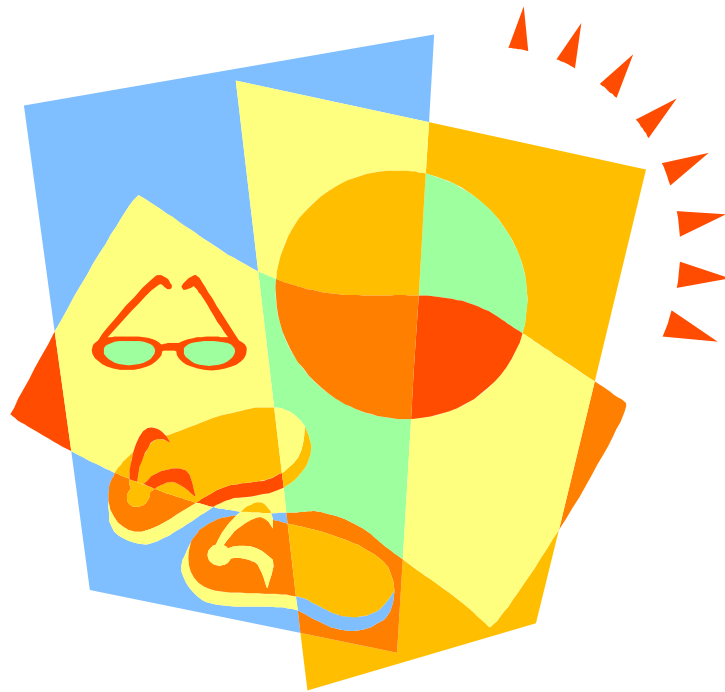


*Family Prayers & Blessings
for Summertime*



Blessing for Mother's Day

A son or daughter leads the family in the following:

Leader: **Dearest mother, for saying yes to our life and for offering us the chance to live and grow.**

Children: **We say, thank you.**

Leader: **For the times when we just needed someone to talk to, and you were there.**

Children: **We say, thank you.**

Leader: **For the times when no one believed in us, and you stood firmly by us.**

Children: **We say, thank you.**

Leader: **For the times when you did so much for us, and expected so little or nothing in return.**

Children: **We say, thank you.**

Leader: **For the times when we messed up, and you graciously embraced and forgave us.**

Children: **We say, thank you.**

Leader: **For the times when we were sick, and you gave us your special, loving, motherly care.**

Children: **We say, thank you.**

Children: **We believe in you, Mom. You are someone who is very important to us, not because of the things you do, but because you are the person you are. We honor you and love you. We love you for who you are and not for who we pretend or hope you to be. If you have hurt us in any way, we forgive you. We know in our hearts that you are God's gift to us.**

Leader (*son or daughter*): **Lord God, bless our mother this day with all good things: health, joy, love, and laughter. Keep her in your care and protect her from all which is harmful. Grant her peace and justice all her days.**

All: **Amen.**

All bless Mom with the Sign of the Cross on her forehead and a hug.



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Blessing for Father's Day

A son or daughter leads the family in the following:

Leader: **Lord, we have relied on our father for so many things throughout the years, and we often forget that he is not invincible, but rather a person who has strengths and weaknesses just like us. Help us, Lord, to always give our father the chance to be simply who he is, a blessing to us. Lord, this Father's Day, may we truly appreciate our father and bless him with our love.**

Leader: **Lord, may our dad experience your love for him in new and deeper ways this Father's Day. May he always be aware of how deeply we love him.**

Children: **Hear us God, our Father.**

Leader: **May we always have memories of shared love with our dad.**

Children: **Hear us God, our Father.**

Leader: **May we always have the courage to tell our dad how much we love him.**

Children: **Hear us God, our Father.**

Leader: **Free our father from any injury or hurt we may have caused, so that we may be as united in love as we are intended to be.**

Children: **Hear us God, our Father.**



Leader: **May we always walk proudly with our father in times of prosperity and in times of need, and humbly support him as he has supported us.**

Children: **Hear us God, our Father.**

Leader: **May we have the courage to forgive our father any hurts we have experienced and accept him in his brokenness.**

Children: **Hear us God, our Father.**

Leader: **We believe in you, Dad. You are someone who is very important to us, not because of the things you do, but because you are the person you are. We honor and love you. We love you for who you are and not who we pretend or hope you to be. If you have hurt us in any way, we forgive you. We know in our hearts that you are God's gift to us.**

Leader: **Lord God, bless our father this day with all good things: health, joy, love, and laughter. Keep him in your care and protect him from all that is harmful. Grant him peace and justice all his days.**

All: **Amen.**

All bless Dad with the Sign of the Cross on his forehead and a hug.

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Prayer for a Graduate

***(Name) you are a unique creation,
a person blessed by God with life,
a person called, in love, to grow
and to share your gifts with others.***

***We come together today to celebrate your accomplishments,
to reflect on who you are for us,
and to share our dreams for your future.***

May your graduation day be filled with happiness and joy.

***We rejoice in who you are for us as a family, calling to mind especially your gifts of
_____ and _____.***

May God continue to bless you and challenge you.



May you always be surrounded by people who support and love you.

May you grow more fully into the man/woman that God wants you to be, and that the world so desperately needs.

We ask this today, in hope and expectation that God will continue the great things already begun in you.

Amen.

Blessing Before Leaving on a Journey

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: **May the Lord turn his face toward us and guide our feet into the way of peace, now and forever.**

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **Let us pray that God will give us and all those who travel a prosperous journey and that as we travel we will praise God in all his creatures; that we will experience God's own goodness in the hospitality we receive, and bring the Good News of salvation to all those we meet; that we will be courteous toward all; that we will greet the poor and afflicted with kindness and know how to comfort and help them.**

All: **Amen.**

Reader: **A reading from the book of Tobit:**

Tobit called his son and said to him: "My son, prepare whatever you need for the journey, and set out with your kinsman. May God in heaven protect you on the way and bring you back to me safe and sound; and may his angel accompany you for safety, my son."

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **All powerful and merciful God,
you led the children of Israel on dry land,
parting the waters of the sea;
you guided the Magi to your son by a star.
Grant us a safe journey.**

Under your protection, let us reach our destination and come at last to the eternal haven of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **May almighty God bless us in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

All: **Amen.**



Blessing Upon Returning from a Journey

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: **Peace be with this house and with all who live here. Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

All: **Now and forever.**

Leader: **Let us praise God for a journey safely ended and for the home we share, for all that we have seen of God's goodness and for all those we met on our way. Remember that God commands us to welcome the homeless and to shelter the stranger.**

Reader: **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:**

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: **Blessed are you, Lord our God,
for you lead us by separate ways,
and you return us to one another.
In loving kindness you have given us
a place to be at home.
Keep us in your care through all our pilgrimage
until we find our home with you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **Let us bless the Lord.**

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Blessing Before Leaving Home for School, Employment, or Ministry

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: **The Lord guard your coming and your going. Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

All: **Now and forever.**

Leader: **Gathering all our memories of good times and difficulties together, and full of hope and concern for the days ahead, let us ask God's blessing on (Name).**

Reader: **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:**

Thomas said to Jesus, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Welcome Home!

Leader: **O God, you led your servant Abraham from his home and guarded him in all his wanderings. Guide your servant, (Name). Be a refuge on the journey, shade in the heat, shelter in the storm, rest in weariness, protection in trouble, and a strong staff in danger. For all our days together, we give you thanks: bind us together now, even though we may be far apart. May your peace rest upon this house, and may it go with your servant always. Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **Let us bless the Lord.**

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: **Let us praise God, who plants the seeds and reaps the harvest. Blessed be God forever.**

All: **Blessed be God forever.**

Leader: **Today we seek God's blessing on these seeds (seedlings) and the flowers and food they will produce. Christ reminds us that, unless the seed is planted in the earth and dies, it will not yield fruit. As these seeds (seedlings) grow and are cared for, may they be signs of the new life that comes from God.**



Reader: **Let us listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah:**

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to him who sows and bread to him who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **The Lord of the harvest sustains us, let us call upon him:**

All: **Deliver us, O Lord.**

Leader: **From despair in times of drought:**

All: **Deliver us, O Lord.**

Leader: **From wastefulness in times of plenty:**

All: **Deliver us, O Lord.**

Leader: **From neglect of those in need:**

All: **Deliver us, O Lord.**

Leader: **From blindness to your presence in our work and play:**

All: **Deliver us, O Lord.**

Leader: **From hunger and thirst:**

All: **Deliver us, O Lord.**

Leader: **Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, as we pray:**

All: **Our Father...**

Leader: **Lord of the harvest, you placed the gifts of creation in our hands and called us to till the earth and make it fruitful. We ask your blessing as we prepare to place these seeds (seedlings) in the earth. May the care we show these seeds (seedlings) remind us of your tender love for your people.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **May God nourish us and care for us, now and forever.**

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **May almighty God bless us in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

All: **Amen.**

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Blessing Prayer for a Garden

***Lord of Creation,
who planted Your own garden called Eden,
come and bless this soil
which is to be our garden.***

***All that dies becomes earth,
and so it lives again.***

***May this garden soil
be both womb and tomb,
a home for death and life,
so that seeds of living things —
of plants, of food and flowers —
may die and resurrect
here in our garden.***

***Ancient earth,
our mystical mother,
teach us, your children,
that all things die
to nourish life.***

***Gentle earth,
be blessed with our love
as we work in you.***

***Make us mindful that one day
you will be our final bed
of love and ecstasy.***

Amen.

The garden may be sprinkled with water, and a simple cross of sticks or some other religious symbol may be placed in the soil.

Blessing of Boats and Fishing Gear

All make the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: **Let us praise and glorify God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever.**

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **Today we gather to bless this boat (this fishing equipment) and those who will use it. The Lord calmed the Sea of Galilee and brought his disciples to safety. We commend those who use this craft into his care.**

Reader: **Let us listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Matthew:**

Jesus got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but Jesus was asleep. The disciples came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" Jesus said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Leader: **At the command of the Son of God the sea was calmed and the nets were filled to overflowing. Let us call upon Christ with faith:**

All: **Guide us safely, O Lord.**

Leader: **In the face of wind and rain, we pray:**

All: **Guide us safely, O Lord.**

Leader: **In the stillness and calm of the sea, we pray:**

All: **Guide us safely, O Lord.**

Leader: **In our respect for the world's natural resources, we pray:**

All: **Guide us safely, O Lord.**

Leader: **In remembrance of those who labored at sea and have gone to their rest, we pray:**

All: **Guide us safely, O Lord.**

Leader: **Christ taught us to call upon the Father, and so we pray:**

All: **Our Father...**

Leader: **God of boundless love, at the beginning of creation your Spirit hovered over the deep. You called forth every creature, and the seas teemed with life.**

Through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us the rich harvest of salvation. Bless this boat, its equipment, and all who will use it. Protect them from the dangers of wind and rain and all the perils of the deep. May Christ, who calmed the storm and filled the nets of his disciples, bring us all to the harbor of light and peace.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **May the saving power of our Lord guide and protect us, now and forever.**

All: **Amen.**

Leader: **May almighty God bless us in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

All: **Amen.**

