

Blessing of Families

(The Family gathers near the Nativity Scene)

All Make the sign of the cross, as the Leader says:

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world.

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
left his heavenly home
in order to be born in a human family.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, and watched over by Joseph of Nazareth.
Today we ask God to bless our family (and friends),
and make us more like Christ our Saviour.

Leader: Let us listen to these words from Scripture,

Reader: See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when He is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.

Intercessions:

R: Lord, Hear our Prayer

Leader: Let us pray for ourselves and all families, especially for all parents and children. **R.**

Lord God, bless all families, **R.**

Bless this house and all who live here, **R.**

Fill us with the light of Jesus, **R.**

Give us happiness and health, **R.**

Make us gentle and loving members of your family, **R.**

Keep us faithful to your love, **R.**

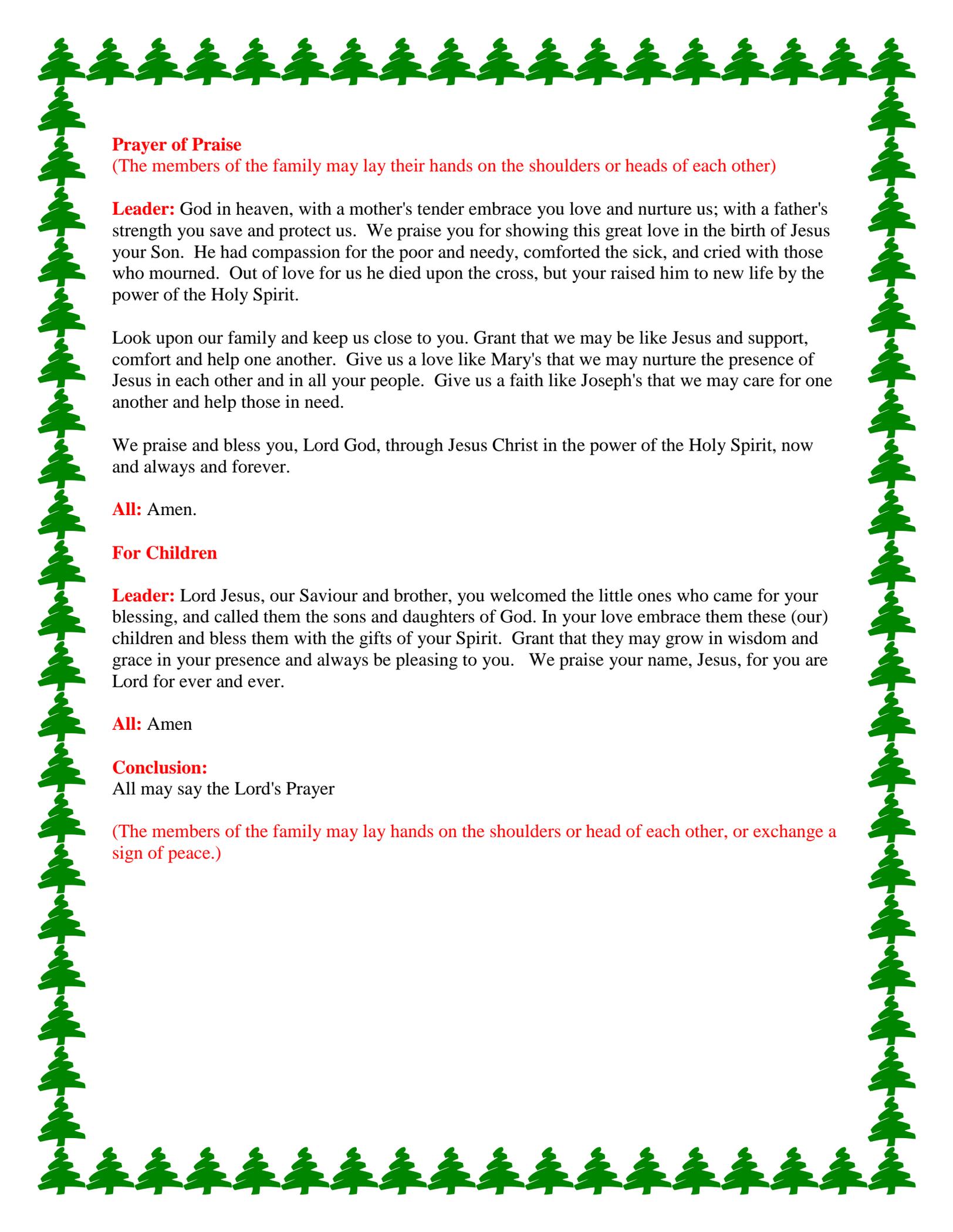
Bless our Pope, Bishops, and pastor, **R.**

Give comfort to all in need, **R.**

Remember the sick and lonely, **R.**

Give us a concern for the poor, **R.**

Help us share our gifts with others, **R.**



Prayer of Praise

(The members of the family may lay their hands on the shoulders or heads of each other)

Leader: God in heaven, with a mother's tender embrace you love and nurture us; with a father's strength you save and protect us. We praise you for showing this great love in the birth of Jesus your Son. He had compassion for the poor and needy, comforted the sick, and cried with those who mourned. Out of love for us he died upon the cross, but you raised him to new life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Look upon our family and keep us close to you. Grant that we may be like Jesus and support, comfort and help one another. Give us a love like Mary's that we may nurture the presence of Jesus in each other and in all your people. Give us a faith like Joseph's that we may care for one another and help those in need.

We praise and bless you, Lord God, through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever.

All: Amen.

For Children

Leader: Lord Jesus, our Saviour and brother, you welcomed the little ones who came for your blessing, and called them the sons and daughters of God. In your love embrace them these (our) children and bless them with the gifts of your Spirit. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace in your presence and always be pleasing to you. We praise your name, Jesus, for you are Lord for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Conclusion:

All may say the Lord's Prayer

(The members of the family may lay hands on the shoulders or head of each other, or exchange a sign of peace.)