

**St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Salmiya**

**Easter Blessing of Homes**

**(By the head of the family)**

The whole family gathers around the altar at home at a time convenient for all the members. It is important that all the members are present. This is a time for the family to reflect together and pray, using God's word and inviting the Lord to take possession of their lives and the life of the family.

**Requirement:** Altar, Lighted candles, Bible and Holy Water (if you do not have holy water at home, you could get a little holy water from your catholic neighbors)

*[Preferable the head of the family will lead the Prayer Service. One can do the scripture reading and a third could read the prayer of the faithful].*

**All:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Head:** We are celebrating the joy of Easter. Let us pray that Christ will bless our home and fill us with His presence. May He always be here among us, may He nurture our love for each other, share in our joys, comfort us in our sorrows. Inspired by His teaching and example we will seek to make our home a dwelling place of love, spreading far and wide the goodness of Christ. **(Pause for reflection)**

**Let us pray:** God our Father, our family has especially gathered together for the blessing of our home. At this moment Lord, we want to feel in a real way your healing and loving presence in every member. We want you to stay with us always so that wherever we go and in whatever we do, we may be the messengers of your love and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Listen carefully to God's word and find out what God is telling our family through this passage...)*

**Scripture Reading**

**Reader: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians (3:12-21)**

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has given you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond and may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful.

Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands love your wives and do not be sharp with them. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents do not irritate your children or they will lose heart.

**Reader: The word of the Lord.**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

(Pause for a short time)

**Prayer of the faithful.**

**Head:** By rising from the dead, Jesus has filled us with joy. With thankfulness and Easter gladness, let us call upon Him saying:

**Response:** Lord, bless our home and our family.

1. Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the blessings You have given us during the past year. We look up to You for care and protection in the days to come. **(Response)**
2. Lord, we have failed You and let down each other many a time in this home. We want Your forgiveness and ask pardon from each other. **(Response)**
3. Lord, be our comfort in sadness, heal us when we are hurt or sick; be by our side when we fell lonely and rejected. **(Response)**
4. Lord, be with us in our family celebrations. Be the center of our joys; our work and our whole-life. **(Response)**
5. Lord, we now pray for every person living in this home (mention each one by name) we pray for each one's personal needs. **(Response)**
6. Lord, we pray in a special way for all those affected by the Corona virus pandemic. Be with those who are suffering, be it physically, spiritually, materially, financially; that you give them the consolation and peace needed, which only You can give. **(Response)**
7. Lord, we pray for the Government of Kuwait, the medical staff and the many volunteers, who are going out of their comfort and health zone to help us to be safe and restore us to health; bless them and be their strength to carry on this noble task. **(Response)**
8. Lord, grant the departed members of our family, eternal rest. (We spend a minute in silence praying for their souls... mention them by name) **(Response)**

**Head:** Let us bring all our other intentions that are deep within us and that of our parish community together in the 'Lord's Prayer' as we say together:

**'Our Father'** (The family may hold hands as the prayer is being recited).

**Head:** [Sign of Peace]

Post resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ, always assured his disciples His Peace. The peace the world cannot give. In these trouble times that we as family and the world is facing, we ask the Lord again for this Peace, so that He will dispel within us and in society all fear and anxiety, so that we can place all our trust in Him.

The Peace of the Risen Lord, be with each one of you.

Let us now meaningfully greet each other with this kiss of peace.

[Each member goes around greeting each other with the peace of Christ.]

**Head.** Let us pray:

Lord, You have given us the gift of Yourself so that we may live, in and through You. May our family always live in Your presence and wherever we go, may your light shine through us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ, who has redeemed us by his death and resurrection. **Amen.**

(The head of the family sprinkles all the member and the home with holy water.)

**Regina Coeli/ Queen of Heaven**

- V. Queen of heaven rejoice! Alleluia!  
R. For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia!  
V. Has risen as He said, Alleluia!  
R. Pray for us to God, Alleluia!  
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia!  
R. Because the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia!

**Let us Pray.**

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain through His Virgin Mother Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

Glory be to the Father.....

**Final Hymn: Bind us together.** [Or any hymn to our Blessed Mother]

**Alleluia! Happy Easter from the parish clergy to each of you and your families.**