

The Family Vigil



Season of Epiphany

Saturday Family Vigil on the Sabbath Day

The Sabbath and the family alike were instituted in Eden, and in God's purpose they are indissolubly linked together. On this day more than on any other, it is possible for us to live the life of Eden. It was God's plan for the members of the family to be associated in work and study, in worship and recreation, the father as priest of his household, and both father and mother as teachers and companions of their children.

In ancient times God commanded the Jewish people to observe a weekly Sabbath, or day of rest (Exodus 20:8), and the Church has obeyed that commandment as well. Sadly, Sunday is typically viewed even by many Catholics as a time for catching up on chores that weren't taken care of in the previous week. Meanwhile, many people have jobs that require them to work through the weekend.

Often the father hardly sees the faces of his children throughout the week. He is almost wholly deprived of opportunity for companionship or instruction. But God's love has set a limit to the demands of toil. Over the Sabbath He places His merciful hand. On His own day He preserves for the family opportunity for communion with Him, with creation, and with one another.

Since the Sabbath is the memorial of creative power, it is the day above all others when we should acquaint ourselves with God through His works. In the minds of the children the very thought of the Sabbath should be bound up with the beauty of natural things.

Blessed is the family who can go to the place of worship on the Sabbath as Jesus and His disciples went to the synagogue--across the fields, along the shores of the lake, or through the groves. Blessed is the father and mother who can teach their children God's written word;

By such associations parents may bind their children to their hearts, and thus to God, by ties that can never be broken.

The Vigil is held at the family altar or at the dining area or at some convenient place in the house.

Acclamation

Father: Blessed be the holy, eternal, and undivided Trinity:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ☩

Members: *And blessed be His glorious Kingdom, tonight and always, throughout all ages. Amen.*

Summary of the Law

Father: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

(All may kneel)

Act of Penitence

Father: The promise of God given in Advent and fulfilled in Christmas is now manifested in Epiphany. Part of that promise is restored fellowship with God, and the forgiveness of all sin that hinders such communion, so let us confess our sin to our heavenly Father.

Confession

Time of silence for examination of conscience, then all say together the following confession:

All: *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against You through our own fault. We have wavered in our love for You; we have put our own interests above that of all others; and we have not lived out the full reality of Christ in us. Forgive us and cleanse us, O faithful and*

righteous God, that we may continually walk in the light of Your fellowship. Amen.

Absolution

Father: The Almighty and Merciful Lord, for the sake of the Blood of the Cross of His Son Jesus Christ, has laid not our sins to our charge, but has forgiven us all that is past.

He has granted us the grace to put away the evil and to cling to the good, that we may walk with perfect hearts before Him all our days. **Amen.** ☩

(All may stand)

Father: The Lord be with you.

All: ***And with your spirit.***

Father: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Eternal Light, we give You thanks and praise because You have revealed Your glory in Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the Bright and Morning Star, Who makes our darkness light, and illumines all creation. May our hearts shine forth His brightness that we may flood all peoples with the splendor of His glorious light.

All: ***Amen.***

Prayer for Protection and Deliverance

Member: Blessed are You, Lord God, God of our Fathers, Creator of day and night, our Guardian and Deliverer; cause us this night to lie down in Your peace, and in the morning raise us up to life.

Spread over us the Tabernacle of Your presence, and direct us aright by Your good counsel. Shelter us beneath the shadow of Your wings; for You, O God, are our good and gracious King, and to You

we lift up our praise. Blessed are You, Lord our God, the Guardian of Your people forever. **Amen.**

Member: We thank You, O God, our Father, because You have sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world.

All: *In Him, You have manifested Your glory, and revealed the mystery of Your redeeming love.*

Member: In the mystery of the Word made flesh, You have caused a new light to shine in our hearts.

All: *To give the knowledge of Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.*

Member: That He might bring us out of darkness into His own marvelous light.

All: *Behold the Great Desire of Nations has come, He has come among us as our Savior and King. Amen.*

Lighting of the Candle(s)

Candles at the family altar may now be lit.

Father: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. For behold, darkness covers the land, deep gloom enshrouds the peoples. But over you the Lord will arise, and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

All: *Amen. Thanks be to God!*

(All may be seated)

Proclaiming of the Sunday Gospel:

Sunday, January 8: **Matthew 3: 13-17**

Sunday, January 15: **Matthew 18: 1-5**

Sunday, January 22: **Matthew 4: 12-23**

Sunday, January 29: **Matthew 5: 1-12**

Sunday, February 5: **Matthew 5: 13-20**

Sunday, February 12:	Matthew 5: 21-26
Sunday, February 19:	Matthew 5: 38-48
Sunday, February 26:	Matthew 17: 1-9

A time of silent meditation follows, then the Responsorial Psalm is proclaimed)

Responsorial Psalm

Sunday, January 8:	Psalm 89: 20-29
Sunday, January 15:	Psalm 10
Sunday, January 22:	Psalm 27: 1-8
Sunday, January 29:	Psalm 15
Sunday, February 5:	Psalm 112
Sunday, February 12:	Psalm 119: 1-8; 16-18
Sunday, February 19:	Psalm 119: 33-38
Sunday, February 26:	Psalm 99

Reflection

The Father may assign other members of the household to give a short reflection, or a group discussion may take place at this time.

(All stand; a song or chorus may be sung, if desired)

Litanies

Other members of the household may be assigned to lead the Litanies.

Leader: With all our hearts and with all our minds, in peace
let us pray to the Lord.
For the peace that is from above, and for the
salvation of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, and for the unity and welfare of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For His peace upon this community, and upon all who serve Him here, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For His peace upon all our bishops, priests, and deacons, and upon all the holy people of God, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For His peace upon this land, and upon the homes in which His people dwell, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For His peace upon all those who are this night destitute or homeless, upon all who suffer, all in danger, need, or anxiety, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For the faithful departed, that He would grant them peace where the just repose, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: For His angel of peace to guard and watch over us, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: That this night we may rest secure in His peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: Calling to remembrance all the saints in Heaven and on earth, in peace let us commend ourselves, each other, and all our lives unto the Lord.

All: *To You, our God and King, lover of men, to Whom are due all honor and glory, now and for ages. Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer *(Spoken or sung)*

Prayer of Preparation

All: *O God of salvation and lover of all people, we pray that when we gather together in the Communion of the Holy Spirit to celebrate the divine liturgy tomorrow, our service may be found acceptable to You and worthy of Your greatness. Fill us with Your heavenly grace as we partake of the heavenly and life-giving mysteries of the Body and Blood of Your Son; for the glory of Your Kingdom. Amen.*

The Proclamation

Father: Glory to You, O Christ, the true Light.

All: *Christ is the Lord!*

Father: Glory to You, O Christ, the Light of the world.

All: *Christ is the Lord!*

Father: Glory to You, O Christ, the Light from the Light.

All: *Christ is the Lord!*

Blessing

Now may the great God and Father, Who has made known His salvation to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord, gather you into the unity of His Holy Spirit, and evermore bless and keep you.

All: *Amen* ✠

