

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

All: Amen.

Father: Let us pray: O Lord God, bless this chalk to make helpful to man. Grant that we who use it with faith and inscribe with it the names of Thy saints Caspar, Melchior, and Baltassar upon the entrance of our homes, may through their merits and petition enjoy physical health and spiritual protection. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The father writes the initials of the names of the Magi separated by crosses and the year above the door in this manner.

20 + C + M + B + (year)

In conclusion the following hymn is sung or prayed:

The star of Jacob leadeth them, alleluia!
From Saba to blest Bethlehem, alleluia, alleluia!
Gold, myrrh, and incense pure they bring, alleluia!
To Mary`s Child, God, Man and King, alleluia, alleluia!

Sing: We Three Kings of Orient Are

Eternal Father, we ask Thee on this Feast of the Epiphany to release the Poor Souls in Purgatory, especially those whom we loved so dearly in this world! May they fly to Heaven to adore Thee, to adore the Holy Ghost, and to adore Thy beloved Son in Whom Thou art well pleased! And, as the Wise Men of old brought material gifts to the Infant Babe, may our cherished ones bring the gift of our love to the Blessed Trinity. Amen.

Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

All: From the East came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore
the Lord, and opening their treasures, they offered
costly gifts: gold to the Great King, incense to the
True God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial,
alleluia.

Father: Many shall come from Saba.

All: Bearing gold and incense.

Father: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come onto Thee.

Father: Let us pray: O God, Who by the guidance of a star
didst this day reveal Thy Only-Begotten Son to the
Gentiles, grant that we who know Thee by faith may
be brought to the contemplation of the heavenly
majesty. Through the same Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

All: Be enlightened and shine forth, O Jerusalem, for
thy light is come and upon thee is risen the glory
of the Lord, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary.

Father: Nations shall walk in thy light, and the kings in the
brilliance of thy rising.

All: And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Father: Let us pray: O Lord, Almighty God, bless this house
that it may become a shelter of health, chastity, self-
conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience
to the Commandments, and thanksgiving to God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Upon this house and
those who dwell herein may Thy blessing remain
forever. Through Christ our Lord.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

JESSE TREE

Every evening during advent read the corresponding story of the Old Testament, recite the following Psalm and read the prophecy of Isaiah.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, O guide of the flock of Joseph!
Rouse Thy Power, and come to save us.

O Lord of hosts, restore us,

If Thy smiling face shines upon us, then we shall be safe.

O Lord of hosts, how long will Thou burn with anger
while thy people pray?

Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears
And given them tears to drink in ample measure.
Thou hast left us to be fought over by our neighbors,
And our enemies mock us.

If Thy face shines upon us, then we will be safe.

The prophecy of Isaias:

A Root shall come forth from the stock of Jesse
And a flower will rise out of his root!
And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him—
the spirit of wisdom and of understanding
the spirit of counsel and of fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and of godliness.

The people that walked in darkness shall see a great light,
For a Child is born to us and a Son is given to us.

To Him all power shall be given.

His name shall be:

Wonderful One, Strong God,

Eternal One, Prince of Peace.

He shall sit on the throne of David.

And He will found a new Covenant
which will last forever and ever.

EPIPHANY

(We gather round the crib with lighted candles and say:)

All: A child is born in Bethlehem, alleluia!
Full joyous sings Jerusalem, alleluia, alleluia!
From the Orient, behold the star, alleluia!
And holy kings come from afar, alleluia, alleluia!

The Father reads the gospel for the feast of the Epiphany.

St. Matthew 2: 1 -12

All: From the East came the magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered Him costly gifts gold to the great King, incense to the True God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial, alleluia.

Then all recite the Magnificat:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, Because he has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid, for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed, because He who is Mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name; and His mercy is from generation to generation toward those who fear Him, He has show might with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly. The hungry He has filled with good things and the rich He hath sent away empty. He has given help to Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy—as He promised our fathers toward Abraham and his descendants forever. Glory to the



Concluding Prayers

O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of the Blessed Virgin Mary hast bestowed on the human race the reward of eternal salvation; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may experience her intercession for us, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the author of life, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Thee and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

Aspirations to the infant Jesus

O sweet Jesus, with the angels let me praise Thee, with the shepherds let me see Thee; With St. Joseph let me find Thee.

O sweet Jesus, with Thy holy Mother I will embrace Thee; with the Magi I will adore Thee.

O sweet Jesus, with thy spouses let me love Thee; with Thy servants let me serve Thee, live for Thee, honor Thee and follow Thee.

O sweet Jesus, with all Thy chosen friends especially the saints of Christmas-tide, let me proclaim Thee, suffer for Thee and finally die for Thee O Jesus, who art my Model, my Master, and my King. Amen.

Nihil Obstat: John A. Schullen, S.T.D.
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Archbishop of Milwaukee

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A NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS

December 16th is the day to begin the Christmas Novena

The following is a novena in honor of the infant Jesus which can be used at any time, but is usually made during the nine days preceding Christmas, to prepare for the coming of Christ in our hearts, and to obtain some particular favor. We ask especially for a spiritual favor. It is customary to kneel before an altar or picture of the Nativity of Our Lord for reciting these prayers. Being fully recollected in spirit, and respectfully kneeling before our altar, we address the following petition to our Blessed Lady and to St. Joseph, Beginning with the sign of the Cross.

PETITION

O most holy Virgin, and blessed St. Joseph, obtain for us the grace to perform this novena with such attention, devotion, and ardent charity, as will entitle us to join the angels in rendering glory to God. Amen.

Let us say twelve times the Hail Mary, in the remembrance of the care and solicitude shown by our Blessed Lady towards the infant Jesus till his twelfth year. Let us make three aspirations, to incline the Infant Jesus to turn his favorable attention to us.

O Divine Infant of Bethlehem, Whom we adore and acknowledge to be our sovereign Lord, come and take birth in our hearts. Amen

O Infant Jesus, grant that each moment of our lives, we may pay homage to that moment in which Thou didst begin the work of our salvation. Amen.

O Holy Mother of Our Infant Saviour, obtain that we may so prepare for his coming, as not to be separated from him for all eternity. Amen.

Let us pray

Most holy Infant Jesus, true God and true man, Our Saviour and Redeemer, with all earnest and respect, we beseech Thee, by that charity, humility, and bounty which thou didst display in Thy Infancy, graciously undertaken for love of us,

that thou vouchsafe to grant us the favor we now beg, if it be for the honor of God and our salvation. Amen

*Here each one will beg in spirit the particular favor desired.
Pause for a short time.*

O most amiable Infant Jesus, we are most unworthy to be heard in this our petition; but thy Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary, and the great St. Joseph, thy foster father while on earth, are worthy to be heard soliciting in our behalf. Then, O divine Infant, being mindful of their most sublime merits, especially those they acquired during the time they served thee in thy infancy in Bethlehem, thy flight into Egypt, and thy childhood at Nazareth, vouchsafe to grant our request, and give us grace to promote the honor of thy omnipotent infancy, to serve thee with fidelity, as domestic servants all the days of our lives, and to obtain a happy death assisted in



Fourth Day –Holy Innocents

O all you Holy Innocents, who gave your lives for the Child Jesus, obtain for us the grace to profess our faith not only with our tongue, but mostly by our lives and through our actions, so that like you we may give praise and glory to God.

All you Holy Innocents, pray for us!

Fifth Day –St. Thomas of Canterbury

O great St. Thomas glorious Confessor, who didst fall a victim to the sword of the wicked in the defense of the Church, obtain for us the grace always to defend the divine rights of the Church and never to be ashamed of our faith.

St. Thomas of Canterbury, pray for us!

Sixth Day - of the Octave of Christmas

Grant we beseech thee, Almighty God, that as the Saviour of the world, who was born on this day, is the Author of our divine generation, so He may Himself be to us giver of immortality.

Sweet Infant Jesus, be Thou my love!

Seventh Day-St. Sylvester

O great St. Sylvester, Pope and confessor under whose pontificate the Church began to enjoy the great boon of liberty; obtain for us a great love and devotion to the Divinity of Christ which thou didst defend so ardently.

St. Sylvester, pray for us!

Octave Day– The Circumcision

O sweet Jesus, in Whose Holy Name every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, give unto us a perpetual fear and love of Thy Holy Name, that we may praise and magnify it forever.

All: Alleluia.

Father: May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, keep us forever.

All: Alleluia

*Say the Octave prayers for the day:
December 25th to January 1st*

First Day—Christmas

O sweet Jesus, Who didst become a little child for us, having been born of the Virgin Mary, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, give us the grace to imitate Thy humility, purity, patience, and charity, so that we may become more pleasing to Thee.

Sweet Infant Jesus, be Thou my love!

Second Day—St. Stephen

O St. Stephen, first of the glorious army of martyrs to shed thy blood for Christ, and who didst plead with our Lord for the forgiveness of thy persecutors, obtain for us the grace to imitate thee and to learn to love our enemies.

St. Stephen, pray for us!

Third Day - St. John, Apostle

O St. John, beloved Apostle of Christ, lover of the Incarnate Word, favorite Evangelist, obtain for us a great love for Jesus, a tender devotion to Mary, and courage to remain steadfast in all trials and sufferings of body, mind and soul.

St. John, Pray for us!



that last hour by the blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, whose zeal for thy honor will lead us to praise and bless thy divine mercies forever and ever. Amen.

Anthem

Whilst deep silence dwelt on all things below, and the night was in the midst of its course, the almighty Word came down from Its throne. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, Who didst, for the love of us, vouchsafe to reduce Thy incarnated divinity and Thy most divine humanity to the humiliating state of birth and Infancy; grant that we, acknowledging Thy infinite wisdom in Thy infancy, Thy power in Thy weakness and Thy majesty in Thy littleness, may adore Thee, a little one on earth, and behold Thee great in heaven; Who livest and reignest with God the Father, in unity with the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.



CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER

After sunset, the youngest family member is sent to watch for the first star of Christmas Eve. Having sighted it, the child announces that the star has appeared, then, the candles are lit. The head of the household continues.

Host: May the name of God be praised.

All: Forever and ever. Amen.

Host: On this years shortest of days and longest of nights, a star appears shining in the darkness. For on this night, “the Word was made flesh.”

All: And Dwelt among us!

Host: God is born, proclaims the majestic Christmas carol. Jesus, Son of God, is born of Mary. For this night, “The Word was made flesh...”

All: And dwelt among us!

Host: The star has appeared announcing His birth. The star of Bethlehem guides the Three Wise men in their search for the new born King. For this night, “the Word was made flesh.”

All: And dwelt among us!

Host: This night a Child is born to us and a Son is given to us. His name is Wonderful, Counselor, eternal Father Prince of peace. “The Word was made flesh...”

All: And dwelt among us!

Host: Throughout the ages on this eve, as the first star appeared, our ancestors throughout the world celebrated with joy this Christmas Eve as we do today. “For the Word was made flesh.”

All: Sing to the Lord, bless his Name; announce His salvation day after day.

Mother: Tell His glory among the nations, among the people His wondrous deeds.

All: For great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, awesome is He, beyond all gods.

Mother: For all false gods are things of naught, but the Lord made the heavens.

All: Splendor and majesty go about Him, praise and grandeur are in His sanctuary.

Mother: Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and praise, give to the Lord the glory due His Name.

All: Bring gifts and enter His courts, worship the Lord in holy attire.

Mother: Let the heaven be glad and the earth rejoice, let the sea and what fills it resound, let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!

All: Then shall all the trees of the forest exult before the Lord, for He comes, for He comes to rule the earth.

Mother: He shall rule the world with justice and the People with his constancy.

All: Protect us, O Lord, while we are awake and safe guard us while we sleep, that we may keep watch with Christ and rest in peace.

Father: O Lord, hear our prayer.

All: And let our cry come onto Thee.

Father: Let us pray: Visit this house, we beseech Thee, O Lord and drive far from it all snares of the enemy. Let Thy holy angels dwell therein who may keep us in peace, and let Thy blessing be always upon us. Through Christ our Lord.

Mother: This day Christ is born, this day the Savior has appeared This day Angels are singing on earth, Archangels are rejoicing. This day the just are glad and say.

All: Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

EVENING PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Mother: May the Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

All: Alleluia.

Father: Be sober, and watch! For your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goes about seeking someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

All: Thanks be to God.

Father: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Father: I confess to Almighty God,

All: to blessed Mary ever-Virgin, to blessed Michael the Archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, to the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and to all the Saints, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed; through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore, I beseech blessed Mary ever Virgin, blessed Michael the Archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and all the Saints, to pray to the Lord our God for me.

Father: Protect us, O Lord, while we are awake safeguard us while we sleep, that we may keep watch with Christ and rest in peace.

Mother: Sing to the Lord an new canticle,
Sing to the Lord, all ye lands,

All: And dwelt among us!

Host: Our forefathers celebrated this evening with the breaking of the bread, the Christmas Oplatek. Following their example we share in this sacred heritage. In the breaking of this bread and sharing of this meal, Jesus is born for us this evening, around this table, under our roof, in our hearts. Let us now listen to the story of His Birth recounted by St. Luke: (*Reader presents the Gospel of the Midnight Mass*)

SEQUEL OF THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

CHAPTER II

At that time, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled. This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the governor of Syria, and all went to be enrolled, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem. Because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country Shepherds watching and keeping the night watches over their flocks and behold an Angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear. And the Angel said to them: "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all people. For this day is born to you a Savior who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger." And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of heavenly army, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will.

Host: At this feast, we share the joy of heaven. We rejoice with the Holy Family of Bethlehem. Having sighted the first star, we gather at this table to hear glad tidings of comfort and joy. Summoned to the festival we break bread and share the holy wafer. The breaking of this bread brings with it a promised of reconciliation and peace. As we share it with each other, we are bound to forgive each other all the wrongs we have done in the past, and never return to them. Through forgiveness the Lord is born in our family, as Bethlehem, “the house of bread,” happens once again among us. For this reason the holy wafer is called the “bread of love”. Glory to God in the Highest Heaven! And...

All: Peace to His people on earth.

Before the wafer is passed, the head of the household traditionally extends Christmas wishes and re-members those who are not able to be present. All then share the wafer exchanging greetings and joyful wishes for the coming year. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



THE BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS BREAD

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, Thou the bread of Angels, Thou the Living Bread of Eternal life, graciously deign to bless this bread as Thou didst bless the five loaves in the desert that all who partake of it may have health of body and soul. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Say Grace and the Angelus

Sing "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to Jesus!

MORNING PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Mother: Christ is born to us!

All: Come, let us adore Him.

Father: To the King of the Ages, who is immortal, invisible, the one only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen

All: Thanks be to God.

Father: Arise, O Christ, and help us.

All: And deliver us for Thy Name's sake. Lord, have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us!

Father: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come onto Thee.

Father: Let us pray: O Lord God Almighty, who has brought us to the beginning of this day, preserve us in the same by Thy power that during this day we may not fall into any sin, but that all our words, thoughts and work may be directed to doing Thy holy will. Through Our lord Jesus Christ.

All: Alleluia.

In conclusion all sing the Adeste Fidelis:

O Come, all ye faithful
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels,

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.



CHRISTMAS EVE THE BLESSING OF THE TREE

Father: This is the most worthy Tree in the midst of Paradise

All: On which Jesus by His death overcame death for all.

Father: Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;

All: Let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! All the trees of the forest shall exult before the Lord, for He comes; for He comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with His constancy. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As It was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All: This is the most worthy Tree in the midst of Paradise on which Jesus by His death overcame death for all.

Mother: God said: Let the earth bring forth vegetation: seed bearing plants and all kinds of fruit trees that bear fruit containing their seed. And so it was. The earth brought forth vegetation, every kind of seed bearing plant and all kinds of trees that bear fruit containing their seed.

The Lord God made to grow out of the ground all kinds of trees pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And God saw that it was good.

All: Thanks be to God.

Father: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come onto Thee.

Father: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by dying on the tree of the Cross didst overcome the death of sin caused by our first parents' eating of the forbidden tree of paradise, grant, we beseech Thee, the abundant graces of Thy Nativity, that we may so live as to be worthy living branches of Thyself, the good and ever green Olive Tree, and in Thy strength bear the fruit of good works for eternal life. Who livest and reignest forever and ever.

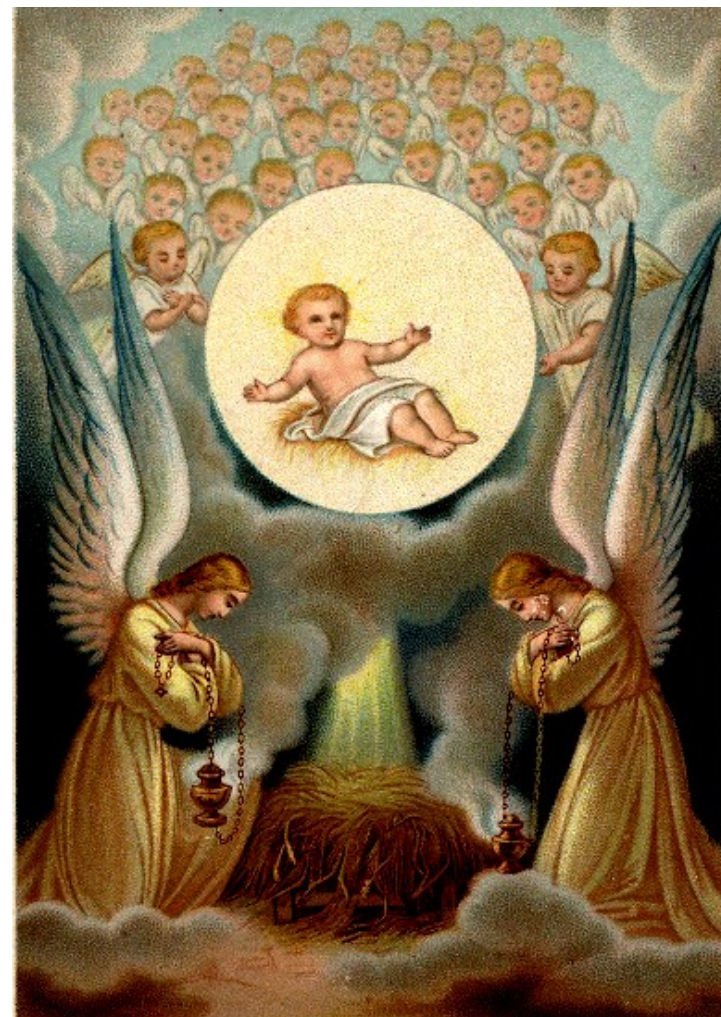
All: Amen.



Now the mother prays the collect from the Missal:

Mother: O God, who hast made this most holy night to shine forth with the splendor of the true Light; grant, we beseech Thee, that we, who have known the mysteries of His light on earth, may enjoy also His happiness in heaven. Who with Thee liveth and reigneth forever.

All: Amen.



All: O great mystery and wonderful sign, dumb beasts
saw the newborn Lord lying in a manger.

Father: + Continuation of the holy Gospel according to
St. Luke:

*(Let us go with the shepherds to the Infant Jesus; the Lord
manifested to these shepherds the Incarnation of His Son. Let
us go with haste and adore Him in the crib.)*

At that time the shepherds said one to another; Let us go
over to Bethlehem, and let us see this work that is come to
pass, which the Lord hath showed to us. And they came with
haste; and they found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying
in the manger. And seeing they understood of the word that
had been spoken to them concerning this Child. And all that
heard wondered; and at those things that were told them by
the shepherds. But Mary kept all these words, pondering
them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying
and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen,
as it was told unto them.

All: Praise be to Thee, O Christ

Father: The Word was made flesh, alleluia

All: And dwelt among us, alleluia

Father: O Lord, hear my prayer

All: And let my cry come onto Thee.

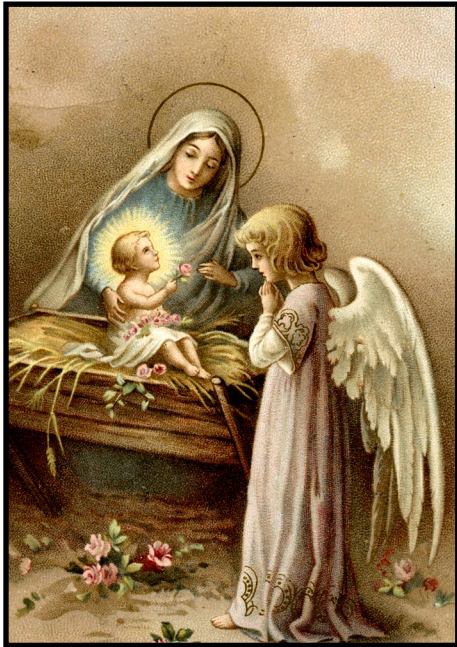
Then follows the blessing of the crib:

Father: Let us pray: We beseech Thee, Almighty God,
bless this crib which we have prepared in honor
on the new birth in the flesh of Thine only begot-
ten Son, that all who devoutly see in this image
the mystery of His Incarnation may be filled with
the light of His Glory, who liveth and reigneth
with Thee forever.

All: Amen.



At last Thou art come, Little Savior,
And Thine Angels fill midnight with song,
Thou art come, to us gentle Creator,
Whom Thy creatures have sighed for so long.
Thou art come to Thy beautiful Mother;
She hath looked on Thy marvelous Face;
Thou art come to us Maker of Mary,
And she was Thy channel of grace.
Thou hast brought with Thee plentiful pardon,
And our souls overflow with delight;
Our hearts are half broken dear Jesus,
With the joy of this wonderful night.



CHRISTMAS MORNING

The children are awakened, dressed in robes and slippers. Each child is given a lighted candle in honor of the Christ Child. The rest of the family is gathered in a darkened living room around the Nativity Scene. Through the halls, the children come in procession carrying the Infant Jesus for the living room crib, while they sing the first verse of Silent Night. By the time they reach the living room door, their father is ready to light the candles at the crib and the Christ Candle.

There upon we sing:

Silent Night, Holy Night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glory streams from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

The eldest child then reads from Roman martyrology:

In the forty-second year of the empire of Octavian Augustus, in the sixth age of the world while all the earth was at peace, Jesus Christ, Eternal God, and Son of the eternal Father, wishing to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, having been conceived by the Holy Ghost, and nine months having passed since His conception, (*all kneel*) having become Man is born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Juda.

THE BIRTHDAY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

After this reading we sing the third verse of Silent Night:

Silent Night, Holy Night
Son of God, Love's pure light
Radiance beams from Thy Holy Face,
With the dawn of Redeeming Grace,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord at Thy birth.

Father: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who hast made heaven and earth.

Father: O great mystery and wonderful sign,

All: Dumb beasts saw the newborn Lord lying in the manger.

Then all present recite the Magnificat, Mary's song with which she answered her cousin Elizabeth when the latter greeted her with the words, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."

Father: My soul magnifies the Lord,

All: and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid, for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed, because He who is Mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name; and His mercy is from generation to generation toward those who fear Him He has shown might with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart, He has put down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly. The hungry He has filled with good things and the rich He has sent away empty. He has given help to Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy, as He promised our fathers toward Abraham and to His seed forever.