

— FAMILY WEEK 2020 — HOME PRAYER SERVICE

PREPARATION:

Have a single lighted candle on a table in the centre of the group.
Have at least two small candles or tealights for each person (do not light yet).

GATHERING:

Come and gather together.
Let us thank our God for all his love.
Let us rejoice in the knowledge of his faithfulness that never gives up.
May our family enjoy the constant presence of the Spirit of Jesus.
May we know and glorify God now and always.

READING:

A family member reads John 13:12-17 or Colossians 3:12-21.

PRAYERS FOR EACH OTHER:

Each person has a chance to pray for the family or for an individual member.

BLESSING:

Take turns to read the blessings below:

- Blessed are we as family as we share our time together.
- Blessed are we as each person meets the demands of the day.
- Blessed are we as each of us contributes to the identity of our family.
- Blessed are we as we take joy in the events that we share.
- Blessed are we as we support each other through the difficult times.
- Blessed are we when against all odds, our family shines through with the love we have for each member, and the love we share with others.

ACTION:

Each person has a turn to light one of their their small candles then present it to another member present with an affirmation such as “You light up the family when you ...” The lighted candles are placed in a circle around the large one.

The additional candles are used to reach out beyond the family. For example, “Grandma lights up the family when she sends each person a hand-made card for their birthday.” These candles are then included in the circle.

Adapted from “Family is the Flame Alive” by Margaret McCarthy and Sharon Freeman.
North Carlton: Centacare Catholic Family Services (now CatholicCare) 2000.

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