

## *Bambinelli Blessing*

### ***Prayer of Blessing for your Christmas Creche/Nativity***

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

- Amen.

### ***Christmas Prayer for Present Opening Time***

Let me just for a moment, Lord, hold this time in my heart. It is about mysteries and gratitude, unknowing and wrong sizes, snippets of ribbon and screams of delight. Help me to remember the immense love you have for each of us in this room. With each gift that is opened, no matter how perfect or not, let me feel again the many ways you gift us each day, especially with your presence in our hearts and the presence of each other in our lives.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021  
SAINT AMBROSE PARISH

[www.StAmbrose.us](http://www.StAmbrose.us)

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## *A Christmas Blessing*

God grant you the light of Christmas,  
which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas,  
which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas,  
which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas,  
which is truth;  
the all of Christmas,  
which is Christ.  
{Wilda English, n.d.}

## *Blessing the Family Christmas Tree*

Before Christianity came to be, trees that remained green all year round ward off evil spirits and were special to people during the winter. It wasn't until the sixteenth century in Germany that trees were brought inside and decorated. When does the Christmas tree go up in your home or parish? Continue the tradition by gathering together and blessing this special symbol.

You may bless the tree as soon as you put it up, or you can wait until after you have decorated it. When you are ready to do the blessing, gather everyone around the tree and designate someone to lead the following prayer.

*You will need water or holy water (if available) to celebrate this blessing.*

**Leader:** Loving God, we stand before you once again. We stand here ready to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus.

*(Have everyone extend a hand in a gesture of blessing. Sprinkle water or holy water on the tree while praying the following prayer.)*

**Leader:** Bless this tree, this sign of life and freshness and perseverance in our midst. It stands as a reminder that you are born anew in us each day. Bless our family and friends as we celebrate this joyous season. Keep us safe in our travels, kind in our conversations, and gracious in our giving and receiving. We ask you this in confidence, because we know you love us.

**All:** Amen.

*(Join in singing a favorite Christmas carol, such as "O Christmas Tree" or "Joy to the World.")*

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