

Prayer of Blessing

For Foster Families, Children in Foster Care, and Families Considering Fostering

In honor of National Foster Care Month in May, the priest may offer a special blessing before the final blessing, while the congregation is standing, for all families who have been touched by foster care: foster families in the community, children and adults who have been in foster care, parents whose children have been in the foster system, and anyone who feels called to foster. Alternatively, a special mass may be held for families touched by foster care.

With hands extended, the Priest concludes the intercessions by blessing the families in these words:

**Gracious Father,
Your Word, spoken in love,
created the human family
and your Son renewed the human family
in charity and mercy.**

**Today we join in offering prayers
to almighty God for all those
whose lives have been touched by foster care.**

[For children in foster care:

**God, author of all life,
bless, we pray, all children in foster care;
give Your constant protection
as You watch over them.]**

[For foster families:

**Endow all foster families
with sincere and enduring love
as they seek to create a safe and loving home
for the children in their care.]**

[For more families to be open to fostering:

**Lord, open the hearts of more faithful families,
that they may welcome Your children into their homes;
help in their discernment as they consider Your call
to care for children who need Your love and support.]**

**Fill this parish community
with faithfulness and new resolve
to share in the formation
of these children
and the support of their families,
in Christ our Savior,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen.

As circumstances suggest, the priest may sprinkle the families with holy water.

If appropriate, a foster family may bring forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist and the faithful may bring forward other gifts to relieve the needs of families in difficulty.

Adapted from the Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb.