

## ***Blessing of the Home by Members of the Household, in the absence of a Priest***

*All members of the family should be present. On a table place a small, clean bowl that has been partially filled with the Holy Water brought from church. A candle is positioned behind it. If the family has an icon of the Feast, it should also be placed conspicuously on the table which has been covered with a clean white cloth. For sprinkling, a small branch of pine or basil which has been bound at the end with ribbon can be used. Have these placed so that family members can face east.*

***Begin:*** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. ***3 times***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. ***3 times***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

***Then either sing, say together, or have single member of the family pray:***

### **The Troparion of the Feast**

When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan,  
the worship of the Trinity as made manifest!  
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,  
and called You His beloved Son!  
And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,  
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ our God, who hast revealed Yourself  
and has enlightened the world, glory to You!

***Then pray the following Prayer:***

O God our Savior, the True Light Who was baptized in the Jordan by the Prophet John, and Who was willing to enter the house of Zacchaeus, bringing salvation to him and to those who lived there, do You, the same Lord, keep safe from harm those of us who dwell here; grant us Your blessing, purification and bodily health, and all of our petitions which are for salvation and life everlasting; for blessed are You, together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your All-holy and Good, and Life-creating Spirit. Amen.

***At the conclusion, take up the bowl and sprinkler and proceed to sprinkle the whole house with Holy Water. While one member of the family does this, he/she should be preceded by another who holds the lighted candle. Those remaining may sing the Troparion once again. If time permits, the Kontakion may also be taken:***

### **The Kontakion (4th Tone)**

Today You appeared to the universe, and Your light, O Lord, has shone on us, who with understanding praise You; You have come and revealed Yourself, O Light unapproachable!

***When the blessing is complete and the family is gathered at the table, complete the observance by praying:***

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

***Having said the prayer, venerate the Icon and rejoice with others in your family which is the Church in your home.***

***It is a good idea to leave the icon in a special place close to where the family dines or prays until the Leavetaking of the Feast which falls seven days afterwards. If the blessing be taken at other times the same procedures are followed.***