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## *Prayer Service for the Blessing of the Bambinelli – Outside of Mass by a Parent or Catechist*

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### ***Sign of the Cross***

### ***Greeting***

### ***Introduction***

On the Third Sunday of Advent our Holy Father, Pope Francis, at the time of the Angelus (at noon) invites the children of Rome to bring their “bambinello”, the figure of the Christ Child, to St. Peter’s Square for a blessing. Let us join in a spirit of unity with our Holy Father and pray for you as we bless these “bambinelli”.

### ***Opening Prayer***

O God, who see how your people  
faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity  
enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a salvation  
and to celebrate them always  
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

***Opening Prayer:***      Matthew 1: 18-24

### ***Intercessions:***

Our response will be: “Come, Lord Jesus”

- ◆ Let us pray for the Church: May all Christians joyfully embrace their call to bring Christ’s love to the world.  
We pray to the Lord ...
- ◆ Let us pray for the world. May the grace of the Christmas season break through all hardness of heart, and strengthen bonds of love and understanding among all people.  
We pray to the Lord ...

### ***Intercessions:***

- ◆ Let us pray for all children of the world that they may know the love of Jesus in their hearts and grow to love Him more and more each day. We pray to the Lord ...
- ◆ Let us pray for the poor and suffering in our communities and world. May people everywhere recognize the face of Christ in the poor and suffering, and reach out to them with greater generosity. We pray to the Lord ...

### ***Prayer of Blessing:***

God our Father, you so loved humankind  
that you sent your only Son Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary,  
to save us and lead us back to you.

We pray that with your Blessing these images of Jesus,  
who is about to come among us,  
may be a sign of your presence and love in our homes.

Good Father, give your Blessing to us too,  
to our parents, to our families and to our friends.

Open our hearts, so that we may be able  
to receive Jesus in joy,  
always do what He asks  
and see Him in all those who are in need of love.

We ask you things in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son,  
who comes to give the world peace.  
He lives and reigns for ever and ever.      *Amen.*

### ***Closing:***

*one verse of Silent Night or Come, Little Children*