

Saint Victor Parish – Richfield, Ohio

Dear Parents and other Children's Adults:

The temporary absence of a cleric (bishop, priest or deacon) does not mean the Church is not present. These important times provide for us an opportunity to re-emphasize the very first church; the church that exists within the home, that church which some popes have called "The Domestic Church."

Since we don't have access to the church on Everett Road right now, I would like to ask all of our parents and other children's adults to remind the youth that the Church exists anywhere "two or three are gathered together," as Jesus taught us.

That being the case, I am asking *every parent or adult entrusted with the care of children* to conduct the "Blessing of Children." It is incontrovertible that parents indeed have the *right* to bless their children, and it could be argued that they *should* do so. This would be a very good time to do that.

The "Blessing of Children" which is found on these pages is from the Book of Blessings of the Catholic Church.

Meanwhile, please let the children and youth under your care know that their pastor is missing them, cares for them, and looks very much forward to our getting back together as soon as possible. I am discoverable on the "Zoom" teleconferencing service (discoverable as acorrigan56@gmail.com) and would be happy to share a chat with our children and youth together with their adults.

I have also recorded a video message for our children and youth. If you would like, I would appreciate if you would sit down with them and view it together. You can find it at the following link (<https://youtu.be/odofpTAMUwI>). This is one of the ways we can stay together as we move through these days, since we will be able to get through this a little bit more easily together than apart.

Please see the "Blessing of Children" on the following pages.

Sincerely,

Father Corrigan

The Blessing of Children

(The leader is a parent or other responsible adult.)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: Let us praise and thank the Lord, who took little children into his arms and blessed them. Praised be the Lord now and forever.

ALL: PRAISED BE THE LORD NOW AND FOREVER.

Leader: Jesus welcomed children and held them up as a model for all who are seeking the kingdom of God. So we ask God's blessing that just as Jesus grew in knowledge, grace and wisdom before the Lord, so too will the child(ren) in this place.

READING

If possible, somebody other than the leader (perhaps a child or other youth) can proclaim the gospel:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Mark:

10:13-16

Jesus blessed the children.

People were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced the children and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

ALL: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The reader, or another reader, can lead this psalm.

Reader: We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

ALL: WE ARE HIS PEOPLE: THE SHEEP OF HIS FLOCK

The Reader reads each of the four verses, and everyone repeats the refrain between the verses:

**Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song. R^y.**

**Know that the LORD is God;
he made us, his we are;
his people, the flock he tends. R^y.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him; bless his name. R^y.**

**For he is good:
the LORD, whose kindness endures forever,
and his faithfulness, to all generations. R^y.**

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us now offer our prayer to the Lord.

Lord Jesus, you welcomed and blessed little children;

Listen kindly to our prayers, we pray;

ALL: LOVING GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Leader: Protect us from all that could harm us of those we love, we pray;

ALL: LOVING GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Leader: Watch over us throughout every day and night, we pray;

ALL: LOVING GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Leader: May we all grow in knowledge, grace and wisdom as did Jesus, we pray;

ALL: LOVING GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Leader: Help all of the children throughout the world today, we pray;

ALL: LOVING GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Leader: Bless all of those who care for us and are good to us, we pray;

ALL: LOVING GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

BLESSING OVER THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The leader(s), who may be one parent/adult, or both parents, can outstretch their arms and pray this blessing over the children:

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you loved children so much that you said:
“Whoever welcomes a child welcomes me.”
Hear our prayers and, with your unfailing protection,
watch over these children (this child)
whom you have blessed with the grace of baptism.
When they (he/she) have (has) grown to maturity,
grant that they (he/she) will confess your name in willing
faith,
be fervent in charity,
and persevere courageously in the hope of reaching your
kingdom,
where you live and reign for ever and ever.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father...

FINAL PRAYER

Leader:

**May the Lord Jesus, who loved children,
bless us and keep us in his love,
now and for ever.**

ALL: Amen.