

TRADITIONAL CHAPELS IN ALABAMA

CEREMONY FOR THE BLESSING OF BREAD (outside of Holy Mass)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Pastor: Father, unworthy as I am, You have chosen me to share in the eternal priesthood of Christ, and the ministry of Your Church. May I be an ardent, but gentle, servant of Your Gospel and Your Sacraments. Help me to do what is right and always to preach what is true, that by my teaching and living I may help Your faithful People grow in the knowledge of Your never ending Truth and Love. AMEN.

People: We pray for our Holy Father, the Pope of Rome, and for our Bishop and all true Bishops and true priests and true religious. We pray for our Pastor. May we always be united with them in desire and in action to do what is best for our Holy and Venerable Church.

Pastor: I pray for my People. May we stand together, and may our solidarity and trust for each other have the strength of Your strength. May we live free from fear and anxiety, full of Your holy Peace and Joy.

Antiphonal Prayer:

V. The prophets of old foretold Your birth among us-now make virtue come to life in us!

R. The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.

V. We proclaim Your saving work-now grant us Your salvation!

R. The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.

V. You came to heal the wounds of men-now heal the weaknesses of Your People!

R. The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.

V. You are worthy of praise, for You have life and rule all things, help us to wait in joyful and patient hope for the coming of Your Glory!

R. The Lord is close at hand; come, let us adore Him.

Pastor: May Almighty God Bless you-the +Father, the + Son, and the + Holy Ghost, and may His blessing be upon you forever. AMEN.

THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD

Lord God, I lead my People to You. Together with them, I ask that You place Your Divine + Blessing on this Bread. (Sprinkle with Holy Water) Bread has always been a symbol of strength. May we who eat this bread today, find in it the strength we need to serve You better and to love You better. May we all learn the true meaning of peace and what it means to sincerely love each other. Bless our Families. Keep peace, harmony, discipline, and love within the walls of our homes. Console us and keep us free from sin and danger. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

AT HOME (To be said by the Father (or Mother if the Father is absent) at the Dinner Table before Dinner. The entire family should be present.)

FATHER: O Lord, hear my prayer.

FAMILY: And let my cry come to you.

FATHER: Let us pray: God our Father, mindful of the place that You have given me within the circle of my Family, I call out to You to bless my Family. I extend Your peace to my Wife, and to each of my Children. As I distribute this Blessed Bread to them, I give a sign to my Family that I am truly mindful of my place, and that I will dedicate myself to my responsibilities. Lord, give me courage, always to live up to my high calling. Protect my Family. Keep us all free from the snares of the devil. Keep us good. Make us holy. Make me holy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AME.
(Distributes the Bread - BROKEN - not cut.)

FATHER: May the blessing of God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost descend upon me and my Family and remain with us forever.
AMEN.