

## BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS CRECHE OR MANGER SCENE

*All make the Sign of the Cross.*

Our help is in the name of the Lord/WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH

We are at the beginning of the days of Christmas. All through the season we will look on these images of sheep and cattle, of shepherds, of Mary and of Joseph and Jesus.

Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

This is the Gospel of the Lord / PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST!

*Place the figures in the manger scene. Mention those in our world, country and families who need our prayers during this season, and recite the Lord's Prayer.*

Pray now for God's blessing, as we look upon these figures.

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene. Through all the days of Christmas may these figures tell the story of how humans, angels and animals found the Christ in this poor place. Fill our house with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving and guide our steps in the way of peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Let us bless the Lord / THANKS BE TO GOD.

Close with a favorite Christmas carol.

(from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)