

The Leader now chants or recites this prayer:

O God our Saviour, the True Light, You Who were baptized in the Jordan by John to renew all people by the waters of baptismal regeneration, and Who humbled Yourself to enter under the roof of Zachaeus, bringing salvation to him to all his household; as the same Lord, also keep us safe from harm. Grant to us Your blessing, purification and health of body; grant also our petitions that are for our salvation and eternal life. ⊕ For You are blessed, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy and life-creating Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Leader takes the bowl of Holy Water and sprinkling sprig, and being led by the candle bearer, walks through the entire house sprinkling all the rooms in cruciform manner (or, if no Holy Water, the Leader blesses each room with a Cross or Holy Icon). On the farm, one can also bless the outbuildings and animals at this time.

While doing so, the family follows the Leader and candle bearer, continuously singing the Tropar of the Feast of Theophany or that of the Holy Cross.

After completing the sprinkling, they return to the table and the Leader says:

Leader: ⊕ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

All: now and forever and ever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Lord, bless!

Leader: ⊕ Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Leader/All: ⊕ In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3x)

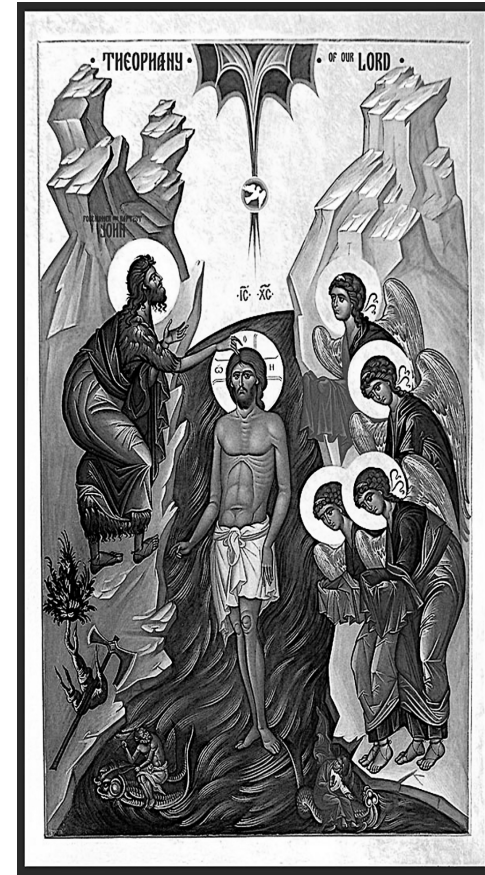
In conclusion, the traditional hymn: Mnohaya Lita – Many Years, may be intoned for all the family and, during the singing, each member may venerate the Cross and Icons on the table and be sprinkled with Holy Water by the Leader.

If it is still the season of the Nativity of Christ, carols may also be sung.

“Bless this house, O Lord, we pray, make it safe by night and day...”

The End and Glory to God!

THE BLESSING OF A CHRISTIAN HOME WITH HOLY WATER (OR WITH CROSS OR ICON) ACCORDING TO THE EASTERN CHURCH - WHEN A PRIEST IS UNAVAILABLE -



Following the ancient Kyvian tradition of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which has always encouraged her faithful in the exercise of their ‘baptismal priesthood’, The Blessing of a Christian Home with Holy Water (or with Cross or Icon) according to the Eastern Church - When a Priest is Unavailable - is a lay-led Reader Service which can be used by the faithful to ‘bless’ their homes on the Feast of Theophany or on other occasions when a ‘ministerial Priest’ is unavailable.

While this adapted service fills a pastoral need to ‘sanctify’ the homes of the faithful in the absence of a Priest, it is understood that, when a Priest is available, his visit and ministerial blessing would be requested.

Preparations:

1) Set a table with a clean white cloth on it and orient it to the East.

2) Place on the table:

i) two standing candles,

ii) a Holy Cross and/or Icon of Christ and the Mother of God,

iii) Holy Water in a bowl, and a sprig of cedar or spruce for sprinkling (if no Holy Water is available, a Cross or Icon of Christ and Mother of God may be carried)

iv) a separate candle to be carried by a candle bearer

3) A candle bearer is chosen to carry the lit candle and go before the Leader into each room as he or she sprinkles the house.

4) Turn off all radios, TVs, computers and cellphones – prepare to pray in peace!

When all is ready the family gathers at the table facing East. The candles are lit. The father of the family or, if not available, the mother, eldest child or whoever is appointed to act as Leader of the Reader Service, begins:

Leader/All: ⊕ In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3x)

Leader: ⊕ Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Leader: ⊕ Glory be to You, our God, glory be to You!

All: Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,
Who are everywhere present and fill all things,
Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life,
come and dwell within us;
cleanse us of all that defiles us,
and, O Good One, save our souls.

Leader/All: ⊕ Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us. (3x)

All: ⊕ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Leader: now and forever and ever. Amen.

All: Trinity most holy, have mercy on us.
Cleanse us of our sins, O Lord;
pardon our transgressions, O Master;
look upon our weaknesses and heal them, O Holy One;
for the sake of Your Name.

Leader: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

All: ⊕ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Leader: now and forever and ever. Amen.

All: 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 evil.

Leader: ⊕ Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ,
our God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

*All sing the Tropar for the Feast of Theophany
in the first tone Resurrectional melody or simply chanted straight (recto-tono):*

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,*
worship of the Trinity was revealed;*
the voice of the Father bore witness to You,*
naming You the beloved Son,*
and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the word's certainty.*
Glory to You, O Christ God,*
Who appeared and enlightened the world.

Or, if outside the Theophany season, the Tropar of the Holy Cross, in the same tone:

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.*
Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies,*
and protect Your community by Your Cross.