

Rite of Enthroning the Bible in the Family

To show that God is at the center of their lives, many families enthrone the Bible, the Word of God, in a visible place in their homes. By placing the Sacred Scriptures in a prominent place decorated with flowers and art, and by gathering at this spot for daily prayer, families show that God is present and active through his Word.

Since this Sunday (24.01.2021) is the **“Word of God Sunday”** we encourage all the families to Enthroner the Bible in your families. To make your action easy we send you this Rite of the Enthronement.

Enthroning the Bible in your home is easy. Simply pick a place where the Bible can be honoured. The Bible should be placed where it will be seen regularly, but the location should be apart from the place of the family entertainment. Place the Bible, opened to a favourite passage or the readings of the day, on a table or shelf. Decorate the area around the Bible with a cloth, flowers, and/or a candle—whatever brings the spiritual atmosphere. Use the following ritual prayer when you gather as a family to enthrone the Bible.

Things to Prepare: Bible, A shelf or table where the Bible will be placed (the shelf may be adorned with a cloth, flowers and candles)



How to proceed

When possible, the ritual may start outside the main door to the house or outside the main entrance to the room. One member of the family holds the Bible, raised slightly. The father, mother, or other leader begins the celebration with the opening litany:

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Word of the Father.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader: You became one with us to tell of the Father's love.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader: You are the light that shines in the darkness.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader: You save us from fear and break the bonds of sin and death.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader: You come to guide our steps and lead us to God.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader: You are the Word of eternal life.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader: You fill us with the Holy Spirit.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

As everyone enters the house or room, they may sing a suitable hymn.

Then the following Scripture passage is read:

A reading from the book of Nehemiah. 8: 1-12

1 And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. 4 And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden pulpit which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithi'ah, Shema, Anai'ah, Uri'ah, Hilki'ah, and Ma-asei'ah on his right hand; and Pedai'ah, Mish'a-el, Malchi'jah, Hashum, Hash-bad'danah, Zechari'ah, and Meshul'lam on his left hand. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people; and when he opened it all the people stood. 6 And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 8 And they read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. 9 And Nehemi'ah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." 11 So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

After the reading, the leader places the Bible in the place prepared for it. All bow deeply before the enthroned Bible.

Leader:

We have heard your words, Jesus. They give us joy and bring light and truth into our lives. Your presence gives us peace in our troubled and divided world. Let your Word create in our hearts a deep desire for you. Be with us in our hearts and homes, in our community and country. Give us your Holy Spirit to help us to understand your Word. We enthrone this Holy Bible in our midst. Make your Word the center of our lives. May your Word inspire all that we think and say and do. May your Word bind us together in unity with each other and with you, today and forever.

Response: Amen.

If it is suitable family members make spontaneous prayers.

Then all join in saying Our Father... Hail Mary (if it is suitable all hold their hands and stand together)

After the prayers all pray together:

We promise to respect the Word of God in our midst. We shall read and reflect on it as a family of God. May we draw from it inspiration for our decisions, strength for our work, and comfort in suffering. Jesus, help us to be faithful to our promise, you who live forever and ever. Amen.

Conclude with a hymn to Mother Mary