

A HOME PRAYER SERVICE THE NIGHT BEFORE FIRST COMMUNION

A lighted candle (symbol of Christ, the Light of the World) may be placed on the dinner table or on a small table nearby. The table is set. Before dinner is served, the family gathers and joins hands as a sign of their unity.

The leader says:

O God, we have gathered here many times as a family.

We come again with gladness for what we have and what we are.

Today we come with thanksgiving because (child's name) who has been growing in knowledge and love of you is now ready to share in your great gift of love, the Holy Eucharist.

We recall what the first Christians did.

Let us listen to a reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Reader:

"They remained faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, to the brother and sisterhood, to the breaking of the bread and to prayer. They went to the temple every day but met in their homes for the breaking of the bread. They shared their food gladly and generously. They praised God and were looked up to by everybody."

Leader:

That is why we too, have met - to share our food, to praise God and to pray.

On this special occasion we present our hopes and needs. For our family, that we may live together in peace.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

For (child's name) that he/she may know the joy which only God can give.

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

Let us pray. Lord, Jesus, you brought love into the world by your words and actions, even more, you made a time and place to receive and share that love in a holy sacrament. Please let our family always receive and share that love. Make us one in loving You. Draw us all together.

AMEN.