

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY



INTRODUCTION

Bambinelli Sunday is an annual tradition in preparation for Christmas in which the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus (*Bambinelli*) from each of their Nativity sets to Saint Peter's Square for a blessing. This tradition takes place on the third Sunday of Advent, and it was first instituted by Saint John Paul II. Following the Sunday *Angelus* address, the pope blesses the figurines.

This Advent tradition is also celebrated in other churches around the world as it is a way for children to connect their Nativity scenes at home to the celebration of Christmas at their local churches.

If your parish does not celebrate *Bambinelli* Sunday, consider hosting your own *bambinelli* celebration. Encourage the children to bring their baby Jesus figurines from their Nativity scenes at home or to make one out of clay to hold as you pray the following Blessing Prayer.

BLESSING PRAYER

**God, our Father
you so loved humankind
that you sent us your only Son Jesus,
born of the Virgin Mary,
to save us and lead us back to you.**

**We pray that with your Blessing
these images of Jesus,
who is about to come among us,
may be a sign of your presence and
love in our homes.**

**Good Father,
give your Blessing to us too,
to our parents, to our families and
to our friends.**

**Open our hearts,
so that we may be able to
receive Jesus in joy,
always do what he asks
and see him in all those
who are in need of our love.**

**We ask you this in the name of Jesus,
your beloved Son
who comes to give the world peace.**

**He lives and reigns forever and ever.
Amen.**

—Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus address for the Third Sunday of Advent,
December 14, 2008

