

## ***Rite for Veneration of the Cross in the Home on Good Friday***

1. On this most Sacred Day when our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross for the salvation of us all, we as Christians from the early Church venerate the cross. When St. Helen went to the Holy Land in the fourth century, on Good Friday, she found the early Christians lining up to kiss the true cross.
2. Since we are unable to gather together to commemorate this mystery of Christ suffering and death it is appropriate that this be celebrated in some way in the home.
3. At an appropriate time in the afternoon preferably about the 3:00 O'clock hour the family may gather in a room of the house appropriate for prayer. A crucifix or a family cross should be available.
4. The father of the family is to be the leader, if he is absent then the oldest son is to be the leader. This should be looked over and parts are to be assigned before doing so, so that it may be fluent for prayer. **\*\*This does not replace watching or listening to the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion\*\***

5. The father begins with:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All respond:

**Amen**

6. The father greets the family:

The Lord be with you

All respond:

**And also, with you**

7. The father continues:

Let us pray,

O God, who by the Passion of Christ your Son, our Lord,  
abolished the death inherited from ancient sin  
by every succeeding generation,  
grant that just as, being conformed to him,  
we have borne by the law of nature  
the image of the man of earth,  
so by the sanctification of grace  
we may bear the image of the Man of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## 8. Then a family member reads the Gospel

### **A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John**

They took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself,  
he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull,  
in Hebrew, Golgotha.  
There they crucified him, and with him two others,  
one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.  
Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross.  
It read,  
“Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.”  
Now many of the Jews read this inscription,  
because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;  
and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.  
So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

“Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’  
but that he said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’”  
Pilate answered,  
“What I have written, I have written.”

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,  
they took his clothes and divided them into four shares,  
a share for each soldier.

They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless,

woven in one piece from the top down.

So they said to one **another**,

“Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be, “  
in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says:

*They divided my garments among them,  
and for my vesture they cast lots.*

This is what the soldiers did.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother  
and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved  
he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.”

Then he said to the disciple,

“Behold, your mother.”

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished,  
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled,  
Jesus said, “I thirst.”

There was a vessel filled with common wine.

So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop  
and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

“It is finished.”

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day,

in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath,

for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,

the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken

and that they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first

and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,  
they did not break his legs,

but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,  
and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;  
he knows that he is speaking the truth,  
so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:

*Not a bone of it will be broken.*

And again another passage says:

*They will look upon him whom they have pierced.*

The Gospel of the Lord

### **R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

9. The family remains standing and the oldest son (or another son or daughter in his absence) then takes and holds up the cross or the crucifix and the father says:

Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world

The family responds:

**Come let us adore**

Then the entire family except the one holding the cross genuflects and pauses for a moment of prayer. (X3) This is repeated twice more for a total of three times.

10. **After this, the individual family members may venerate the cross.** The father begins, followed by his wife, and then the children. It may be venerated by

holding the cross for a moment or by touching the wood of the cross in a reverent way.

11. When all have venerated the crucifix or cross, the crucifix or cross may be placed in a prominent place for the remainder of the day.

12. The father then says:

At the Savior's command and formed  
by divine teaching we dare to say.....

**Our Father .....**

The father then says:

Let us pray,

Almighty ever-living God,  
who have restored us to life  
by the blessed Death and Resurrection of your Christ,  
preserve in us the work of your mercy,  
that, partaking of this mystery,  
we may have a life unceasingly devoted to you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

The Father then says:

Let us praise the Lord

The family responds:

**And give him thanks!**