



Meal Ritual Sacrament of Marriage

Called to be Light for the World

Table Center

Place your home Christ Candle, or other large pillar candle in the center of the table. Add small vigil candles, one for each person sharing the meal. Dim the lights in the room as much as possible to begin the prayer. Be sure that matches are at the table.

We Gather...

Darkness can be a symbol for the times when life is discouraging, or depressing, or scary. Ask each person to share about something he or she is discouraged about, or something that he or she finds depressing or frightening right now. It might be something going on in your family's life, at work, school, or in the world. Light the Christ candle or large pillar candle in the center of the table. As you are lighting the candle, say:

"Jesus is the light of the world. He brings light into the darkness of our lives."

Invite each person to tell about something that he or she has experienced lately that is life-giving, that has made that person

joyful. That person then takes one of the taper candles, and lights it from the pillar candle. Continue until all the candles are lit.

We Tell the Story...

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

We Bless Our Food...

Ask those present to hold their candles as you pray:

God of all goodness and light, we thank you for the awesome gift of your Son, Jesus, who is our Light. Bless our table, and bless our time together. Make us aware of how we can illuminate the darkness in our world by letting the Light of Christ shine through our words and actions. Amen.

As you share the meal, invite those gathered at the table to talk about moments of darkness and light in their lives and in the world.

We Go Forth...

As we end our meal, we remember what Jesus tells us: be salt for everyone on earth:

Lord God, thank you for the meal we have shared. Bless us as we leave this table. May we remember as we go forth that we are meant to bring the light of your Son, Jesus, into our home and into the world. Help the light of Christ shine from within us. Amen.

Everyone stands. Each takes his or her candle.

Stand together with candles lit and pray the Our Father in closing.