

*Helping You Bring the Joy of the Faith to Your Family*





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# Happy Bambinelli Sunday!

## What is Bambinelli Sunday?

The Blessing of the Bambinelli, or Baby Jesus, was originally instituted by Pope St. John Paul II. On Gaudete Sunday (the 3rd Sunday of Advent), children in Rome would bring Baby Jesus from their nativity scene to St. Peter's Square, where the Pope would bless them.

Pope Benedict XVI describes this tradition in his Angelus address from December 13, 2009:

*"The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' [Baby Jesus figurines] as they are called in Rome, reminds us that the crib is a school of life where we can learn the secret of true joy. This does not consist in having many things but in feeling loved by the Lord, in giving oneself as a gift for others and in loving one another. Let us look at the crib."*

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## A Blessing from Pope Benedict XVI

### As Pope Benedict XVI prayed during the 2008 Blessing:

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.