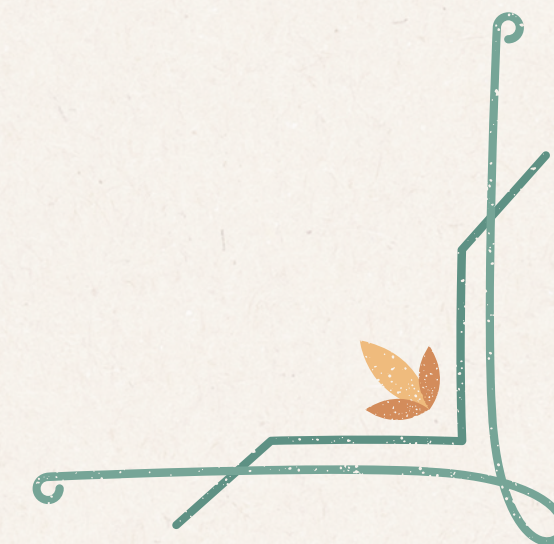


SERVICE OF THE BLESSING OF THE HOME



REV. FR. JITHIN
ZACHARIAH



WHAT'S A HOME?

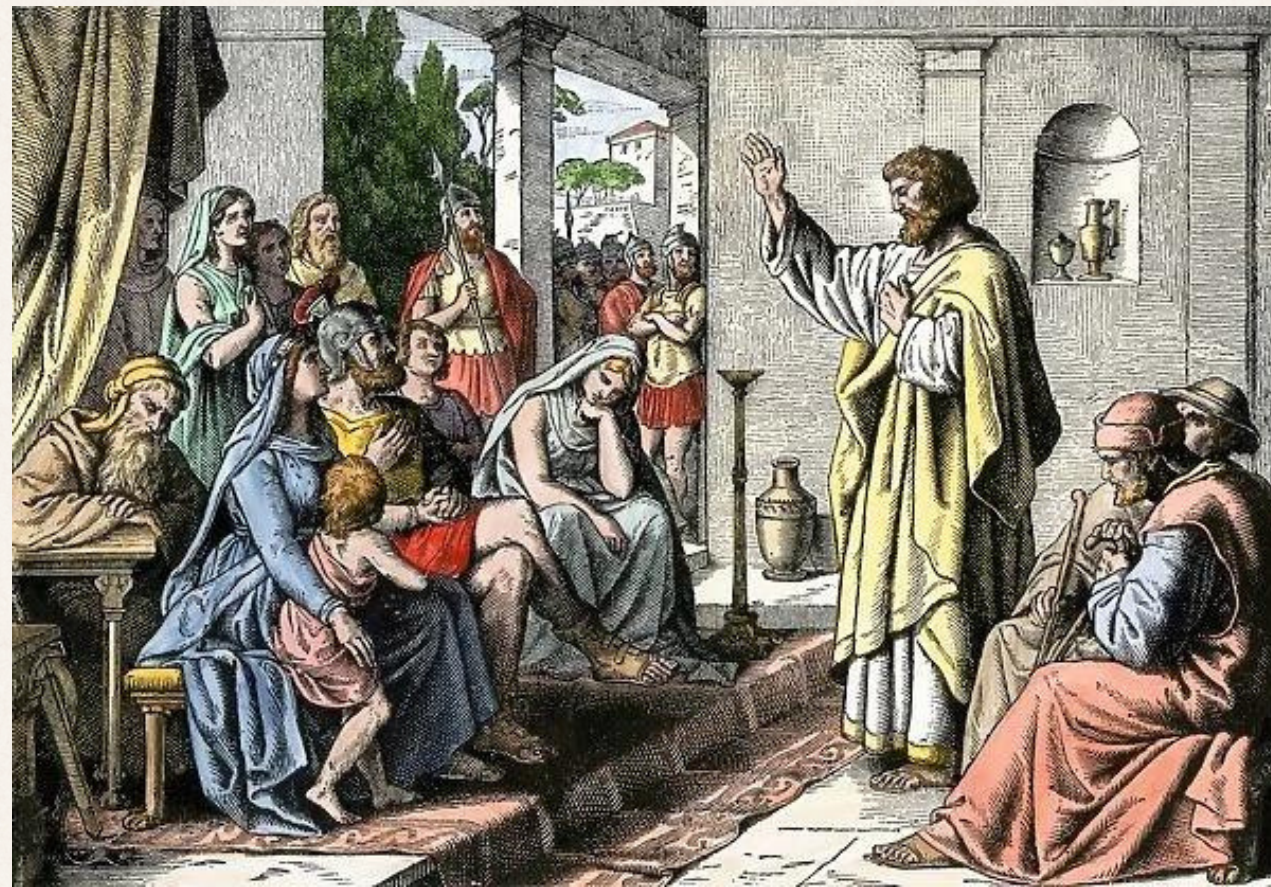
- “the little church”.
- The place where you can share your love, joy and sorrows with one another.
- The house built with construction materials becomes a home when it's blessed by God.
- We are spiritually nourished, disciplined in our Faith, and give thanks to God with our family in the home.



THE CHRISTIAN HOME IS
AN EXTENSION OF THE
HOLY CHURCH.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

- **Acts 11:13-14:** The Household of Cornelius
- **Acts 12:12** - the gathering at the house of John in Jerusalem
- **1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:5** - the house of Aquila and Priscilla
- **Philemon 1:2** - at the house of Philemon
- **Colossians 4:15** - at the house of Nympha
- **Acts 16:14-15** - at the house of Lydia of the city of Thyatira.





SIGNIFICANCE OF BLESSING THE HOME

- We submit our homes to God through the Blessing/Dedication of a Home.
- Just as our bodies are a temple of God, our homes are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20)
- We are called to be mindful of our actions, in thought, word and deed.
- Not only are we physically cleaning the house, but we're called to spiritually cleanse and rededicate our homes regularly.
- We do our best to never harm or desecrate our homes.



WE ARE WELCOMING
CHRIST INTO OUR HOME.

HOW DO WE PREPARE?

- Just as with every Sacrament in our Church, it requires preparation.
- Prayer and/or fasting would be beneficial in this preparation.
- Every member of the home which is to be blessed plays a role in preparing for the service.
- Materials needed for the service: a small table facing east at the center of the room, white tablecloth, a small bowl with water, and green leaves neatly tied together.
- The priest will bring two candles, a cross, a censor and incense.



SACRAMENT OF THE BLESSING OF THE HOME

- Service is conducted by Priests with the participation of the faithful in the house.
- Kauma, prayer, and hymns along with Promion, Sedro, Gospel Readings and Intercessory prayers.
- Water is blessed for sprinkling and purification of the home.
- The priest marks the house with the sign of the Cross in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Lastly, everyone recites the Nicene Creed of the Church followed by kukilions and burning of incense.





THE CALLING OF ZACCHAEUS



ST. LUKE 19: 1-10



THE HOSPITALITY OF ABRAHAM



WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?



- These visits highlight the importance of hospitality and openness. Abraham and Zaccheus both welcomed their guests with great hospitality and joy.
- When the Holy Trinity visited Abraham, they announced the impending birth of Isaac, which brought about a significant change in Abraham's life. Similarly, Jesus' visit to Zaccheus' house led to his repentance and transformation. These stories remind us that when God visits our homes, His presence has the potential to bring about positive change, renewal, and blessings in our lives.
- Serves as powerful reminders of the significance of inviting God's presence into our homes, practicing hospitality, and remaining open to His transformative blessings.

CHRIST IS ALWAYS WITH US!



- It's recommended for us to have our homes blessed once a year.
- Represents not only renewal/rededication of our homes, but also our lives in Christ.
- Whatever is keeping us away from our relationship with God, we move away from it.
- Koodosh Etho and Hoodosh Etho
- During the house blessing service, we ask Jesus Christ to grant salvation to the house and bestow His blessings upon everyone and everything inside, just as He did for Zacchaeus' house.