

# Magnificat!

*everyone who believes in you will rise with you on the last day. In this season of Easter joy, we ask for the grace to face our problems with absolute confidence in your victorious love. Amen."*

In addition, one of the children may select and read one of the prayers from the Lenten Prayer Notebook that they worked on during Lent. This is an important way to make sure that the children continue to keep up the good habits they formed during Lent.

Here are a few of those prayers:

*Dearest Lord,  
Teach me to be generous,  
To serve you as you deserve,  
To give and not count the cost,  
To fight and not heed the wounds,  
To toil and not seek for rest,  
To labor and not ask for any reward  
Except that of knowing that I do your will  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*O my God, I love you above all things  
with my whole heart and soul,  
because you are all-good and worthy of all my love.  
I love my neighbor as myself  
for the love of you.  
I forgive all who have injured me  
and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.*

*I abandon myself into your hands;  
do with me what you will.  
Whatever you may do, I thank you:  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me,  
and in all your creatures—*

*I wish no more than this, O Lord,  
Into your hands I commend my soul.  
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,  
for I love you, Lord,  
and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into your hands  
without reserve,  
and with boundless confidence,  
for you are my Father.*

At the conclusion of the chosen prayer, the leader and family members conclude with the sign of the cross.  
*"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

## Dear Parents,

*From the very first day of the month on, April resonates with the joy of Easter. We hear about the empty tomb, the appearance to Thomas, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the Good Shepherd, and the vine and the branches. Jesus is inviting us all to let the mystery of Easter gradually sink in to our hearts throughout the month. It's almost too much to comprehend: Death has been conquered! Those who believe in Jesus will live for ever! In Jesus, we live an entirely new life of grace and joy! Yes, let this month be filled with joy and laughter. Pope Francis urges us, "Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness...and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the one who is alive! Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life!"*

### Family Prayer

The family prayer this month should begin with an Easter hymn such as "The Strife Is Over" or "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today." After the hymn, the parent who is leading begins with the sign of the cross:

*"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."*

All make the sign of the cross. Just as the Risen Jesus greeted the disciples in the upper room with "Peace be with you," the leader now invites the family members to offer each other the sign of peace.

The leader continues with:  
*"The Lord is risen! Alleluia!"*

All respond with:  
*"Indeed he is risen! Alleluia!"*

The leader continues:

*"Let us pray:  
Risen and glorious Lord, we believe that you  
have conquered sin and death. We believe that*

# Alleluia!

