



Family Lenten Candle

Each of us belongs to some kind of a family. It can be our family of birth, our circle of friends and associates, or a spiritually-based family. For each of these groups, Lent can be a family time. This candle ritual is intended to help express and deepen the bonds of a family/Christ-centered community. While worded in the plural, it can easily be adapted to individual prayer.

A lighted candle can be placed in the center of the table for meals and/or on the Family/Community Prayer Table.

Leader: *Light the candle, slowly striking the match and pausing before it touches the wick. May the fire of this Lenten Candle be a sign of Christ being the center of our community and the warmth of our love. May Christ's love draw our family more closely together as we try to see Christ's love in our daily suffering.*

All: We pray that the fire of our mutual love for Christ and each other will grow, burning brightly in the winter darkness.

Leader: May the circle of this candle's light be a symbol of our love spanning the miles that separate us from some we love.

All: Near or far, may this holy season find us even more united in Christ through our daily sacrifices and works of mercy.

Leader: We pause now to pray for those who are not with us here today.

Brief silent period

Leader: We are one with those we love. We pray that the flame of Christ's love will enkindle us with an eagerness to reach out to help each other and the stranger during this holy season.

All: May the light of our Lenten Candle reveal to us that Christ was born, lived and died to bring love to all God's children.

Leader: On the Feast of Easter, make our community a holy one of love so that we can bring Christ's redemptive love to others.

*Ministry of Mothers Sharing
An outreach ministry of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery*

