



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

A Guide to Establishing a Parish Advent Tradition

Bambinelli Sunday is a relatively recent addition to the beautiful Advent traditions celebrated by the Catholic Church. Instituted by St. John Paul II and continued by Popes Benedict and Francis, children and adults bring their figures of the Christ Child – the “Bambinelli” – from their family’s Nativity scene for a special blessing on Gaudete Sunday. It is a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents, and the entire parish community to help children prepare for Jesus.

BLESSING OF BAMBINELLI FIGURINES

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.

This year Bambinelli Sunday is **December 15, 2019**.
Start preparations **NOW** to bring this tradition to
your parish!

- Begin by approaching your parish pastor with the idea of celebrating Bambinelli Sunday this year either as a blessing before or after Mass or at the Angelus.
- Once you've obtained your pastor's support, assist in getting the word out through announcements.
- On Bambinelli Sunday, be at your blessing time early to help in the process.
- Be sure to provide the priest or deacon with the Bambinelli Blessing (see left sidebar).

Additional resources about Bambinelli Sunday, including a sample bulletin announcement, may be found at www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org. Also, Amy Wellborn has authored an illustrated children's book, *Bambinelli Sunday: A Christmas Blessing*, which would make a lovely addition to a family's library.