

## The Mandatum (Washing of the Feet)

*All make the sign of the cross and then pray together the entrance song from the Mass of the Lord's Supper. (Or, the leader may designate someone to do this.) The words are based on Galatians 6:14.*

**We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
for he is our salvation, our life, and our resurrection;  
through him we are saved and set free.**

*A member of the family reads the evening's gospel passage, John 13: 1-15.*

*Members of the family take turns washing one another's feet. Spouses can wash each other's feet. Parents can wash the feet of their children. This beautiful act recalls the Lord's mandate to love one another as he has loved us. You may wish to play some quiet reflective music during this time.*

*For those who live alone, the following prayer may be used:*

**Jesus, come, my feet are dirty.  
You have become a servant for my sake,  
so fill your basin with water; come wash my feet.  
I know that I am bold in saying this,  
but your own words have made me fearful:  
"If I do not wash your feet, you will have no companionship with me."  
Wash my feet, then, so that I may be your companion. Amen.**

*After everyone's feet have been washed, take turns praying for each other out loud. Or, ask each family member what he or she would like to you pray for them. Then take a moment to offer spontaneous spoken prayers in response to each person's need.*

*When all have been prayed for, conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

## The Meal

*The family moves to the table. There they ask God's blessing on their food according to their usual practice. During the meal, here are some topics to discuss:*

Talk about memorable family meals. What made them special? The Eucharist (Mass) is our family meal as disciples of Jesus. Why is every Mass special? Even though we cannot attend Mass right now, how can we as individuals and as a family remain united to Jesus?

The collection taken at Mass on Holy Thursday is always for the poor. Discuss some concrete things you and your family can do to help others, especially during the current health crisis.

*Be sure to conclude your meal with the usual after meal prayer. Or, the leader can use these words based on Philippians 2: 8-9.*

**For our sake Christ was obedient,  
accepting even death, death on a cross.  
Therefore, God raised him on high  
and gave him the name above all other names.**

## The Watch During the Night

*In commemoration of the Lord's agony in the garden, it is customary to spend the night in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. While that may not be possible this year, please join us for the livestream of the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm.*

*On this night many people also read Jesus' final discourse to his Apostles in the gospel of John 14-17.*