**Blessings**

***We tend to think of blessings as something a pastor or other religious leader does, but actually blessing each other is a powerful way of reminding us of God’s presence. Gestures offer us deeper way to offer blessings – you might lay your hands on the person whom you are blessing or hold their hand. You can make the sign of the cross over the person or trace the cross with your thumb on the persons forehead. Offer a blessing over your loved ones as you head out for the day or at bedtime. Special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries are wonderful times to bless. Let your heart lead you.***

***Anytime:***

**May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord’s face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord’s countenance be upon you, and give you peace.**

***For a birthday:***

**May our God bless you today and as your days increase. May you hear the voice of Jesus and follow in his footsteps. May you be comforted by God’s care and live in God’s grace.**

***When parting from loved ones:***

**May the Lord preserve, protect and defend you until we gather together again.**

***For your home:***

**May our home always be filled with God’s love. May this home be a place of peace during the night and day. May it be a haven of safety for all of our friends and family. May the Holy Spirit come down upon this house and may all who dwell in it feel God’s presence. Amen.**

***Before traveling:***

**May the Lord go with you, for you do not travel alone, For God’s hand is upon you. May God’s presence encircle you as you journey and return you safely home.**

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