

Personalize your Prayer Table

Once your household uses the items in the Take Away Bag to set up a prayer table, you will want to enhance it with a few more personal items. Personalizing the prayer table will make it feel like “yours”, and help you stay more connected as you pray. Below are ideas for creating a unique prayer table.

Bible – Many households have a family Bible. Add it to the prayer table. During prayer time, look up the designated Bible Verse for this month (Joshua 24:15). Read it aloud, take a minute or two to ponder it in silence, then share your thoughts on it.

Crucifix – If your household has a crucifix, you can lay it on the prayer table along with the handheld cross included in your Take Away Bag. If you pray at night before bedtime, encourage your children to give Jesus a goodnight kiss.

Statues - You can also place statues of Jesus, Mary, or any of the saints on your prayer table. Call them out by name as you pray. Children will enjoy carefully holding them during prayer time.

Prayer Cards – Create a prayer card to use during your time at the prayer table. Older children can write a word or words on the cards themselves, but younger children will enjoy decorating the cards with the words already printed on them. See Prayer Card Instructions and Prayer Cards by Beth Diehl for more information. This creative time can be a form of active prayer as you work on making your prayer card beautiful. When you are finished, use the card by quietly reflecting on the word or phrase.

Saint Cards – All Saints Day is November 1st. Put a picture of your favorite saint on the prayer table. If you don't have a saint card, use the internet to find and print an image of him or her. For households with older children, have each share not only his or her favorite saint, but what makes the saint his or her favorite.

Photos of Family Members Needing Prayer – November 2nd is All Souls Day. Include photos of family members who have passed away on your prayer table and remember them in prayer on this day. Tell a story or two about these people so that younger family members who might not remember them as well will still feel connected to them and their family heritage. Family members who are sick or suffering can also be remembered in prayer at the prayer table. Ask God to heal them and help them overcome their suffering.

Natural Elements – The next time you go on a walk or visit a park, be on the lookout for a pretty rock, brightly colored fall leaf, or any other natural element that speaks to your soul. Take it home and add it to your prayer table. Each child in your home may want to add his or her own “find”. Thank God for His beautiful gifts of creation.

Prayer Board – Include a dry erase board and marker, or a piece of blank paper and pen/pencil on the prayer table. As you go through your day and encounter people or situations that could use prayer, write them down. At the end of the day, revisit the list and pray for these intentions.

Prayer is how we build relationship with Christ. We spend time with Him, talk to Him, and listen to Him. There are so many ways to do this; the possibilities are limitless. While we all have our favorite forms of prayer, it's nice to try something new, too. Enjoy praying as a household this month around your family's personal prayer table.