**A Blessing for Weaning Mother & Child**

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**OPENING WORDS**

 [As Christ has nourished us with His body and blood in the Eucharist, so has this mother given of her own body to nourish her beloved child.]

For these past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(name the time of the nursing relationship) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(mother) has nursed and nourished \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (child).

*Those gathered may lay hands upon mother and child or offer another symbolic gesture for each blessing.*

**1ST BLESSING**

Hear the words of Jesus in the Gospel of John:*Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. (John 15:4)*

We give thanks for the gift of this season; for this mother and child who have uniquely embodied the deepest mysteries of faith, abiding in and with one another, giving and receiving life.

We pray that God will continue to knit them together in love, and nourish them both in every way, that their lives might continue to bear much fruit.

**2ND BLESSING**

Hear the word of the Lord spoken by the Prophet Isaiah: *Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.* (Isaiah 49:15)

We give thanks for the joys and the challenges of the season that has past.

We pray that neither mother nor child will forget the bond created by this season of nursing. May the bond forged by this act of love be etched on their hearts and souls forever.

**3RD BLESSING**

 Hear the words of the Psalmist: *I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.**\** (Psalm 131:2)

We give thanks for the joys and challenges of the season that lies ahead.

We pray that, in the days and nights to come, through whatever trials they may face, both mother and child may find quiet and calm for their souls in the loving embrace of God.

**CLOSING BLESSING**

*Presider may trace the sign of the cross, or make another symbolic gesture of blessing, on the heads of mother and child.*

May mother and child alike know deeply, in heart and mind and body, that they are held and nourished this day and forever, in the arms of God who will never forget or forsake them.

Amen.