

Blessing of Personal and Family Bibles

Please invite all the Faithful to bring their Bibles to Mass to be blessed during the Sunday of the Word of God as decreed by Pope Francis. Here's a model of an Order of Blessing within Mass with suggested intercessions and background notes. (cf. Aperuit Illis N.3)

Introduction

To encourage the faithful to own a copy of the Bible and to read it prayerfully they might be invited to bring their Bibles to Mass for them to be blessed.

People should be encouraged to bring any edition or even a part such as the Gospels.

It would be appropriate for the parish to provide those who do not come with a text, and may not have a Bible, with a copy of the Gospel for the current liturgical year, 2025 – St. Luke's Gospel.

In the homily the priest or deacon may speak on the importance of scripture in the life of the Church, different approaches to reading scripture and on the specific readings of the celebration. He may even invite people to find the Gospel text of the day in their own Bible.

The blessing takes place after the Renewal of Commitment of Readers/Lectors and before the Profession of Faith and the Prayer of the Faithful (some sample intercessions are given below).

It would be suitable to celebrate this blessing on the Sunday of the Word of God (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time). To celebrate it well will require an invitation in the weeks before and the ordering of any Gospels to be given out.

Some Notes

Blessings

Human sanctification and God's glorification are the ends towards which all the Church's activities are directed. The theology presented in the *Book of Blessing* is that God is the focus of our blessing - it is God whom we bless. We bless God for the gift of the object to be blessed and that those who use it will grow in their love of God and neighbour. '*... the celebration of blessings should truly contribute to God's praise and glory and should serve to better God's people.*'

Order of Blessing within Mass

Prayer of Blessing

Introduction

The word of God, which comes from and leads back to Him who is truth itself, is living and effective. His word runs swiftly, and its clear truth is received when it is read, signed, heard, or when it reaches us through the other media of communication.

It is God who has inspired in the human spirit the desire to record and preserve through Sacred Scripture his word. The books of the Bible contain the truth in a unique way, because they are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Through the reading of the Bible, truth becomes the guide for living, wisdom encourages humility, we are more easily led to mutual understanding, and to the knowledge of God Himself.

The word of God, read in the sacred Scriptures enlightens our minds and hearts; God speaks to us and calls us to respond in faith and love, we ask his blessing.

**The assembly is invited to hold up their copies of the Bible.
With hands extended over the assembly the celebrant says:**

Everlasting God,
when he read in the synagogue at Nazareth,
your Son proclaimed the good news of salvation
for which he would give up his life.
Bless + all who will read from these sacred texts.
As they read, listen and reflect on your words of life,
strengthen their faith
so that what they read in hope,
they may live in love and charity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. (Prayer based on Order of Blessing of Readers, *Book of Blessings*)

Model Intercessions

For all who read the word of God;
may they be inspired to love God with all their heart and soul.

For all who pray with the word of God;
may their lives be living witness to the way of the Lord.

For all who proclaim the word of God;
may they have deep faith, clear understanding and clarity of speech as they announce God's saving word.
Amen.