

Blessing of Students and Teachers

522 It is appropriate that students and teachers alike acknowledge that all human wisdom and knowledge have God as their source. Accordingly, this order may be used for blessing both students and teachers at the beginning of the school year or on other occasions.

523 Although both students and teachers are usually blessed at the same time, the prayers should be adapted when either students or teachers alone are blessed.

524 The blessing may be given during Mass or at a celebration of the word of God. If this blessing is given during Mass on Sunday, the Mass of the day is celebrated.

525 The blessing may be given by a priest, deacon, or a lay minister.

I. ORDER OF BLESSING WITHIN MASS

526 *After the gospel reading, the celebrant in the homily, based on the sacred text and pertinent to the particular place and the people involved, explains the meaning of the celebration.*

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

527 *The general intercessions follow, either in the form usual at Mass or in the form provided here. The celebrant concludes the intercessions with the prayer of blessing. From the following intentions those best for the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.*

The celebrant says: God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Or: R. Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.

Assisting minister: For students (as they begin this new school year), that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister: For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister: For those who seek knowledge of the things of this world, that they may always pursue God's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister: For parents, the first teachers of their children, that their faith and love may be an example to us always, let us pray to the Lord. R.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

528 With hands extended over the students and teachers, the celebrant says immediately:

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. In times long past you sent us your prophets to teach your laws and to bear witness to your undying love. You sent us your Son to teach us by word and example that true wisdom comes from you alone.

Send your Spirit upon these students and their teachers and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that during this academic year they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learned from others.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

529 Or: Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways.

Look upon these students. Let them enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them to persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that students and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

II. ORDER OF BLESSING WITHIN A CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

530 The present order may be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

531 *When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the minister says:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply: Amen.

532 *A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.* May the God of wisdom, knowledge, and grace be with you always.

And all reply: And also with you.

533 *A lay minister greets those present in the following words:* Let us praise the God of wisdom, knowledge, and grace. Blessed be God for ever. R. Blessed be God for ever.

534 *In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.* We gather here today to ask God's blessing on these students and their teachers (as they begin the new academic year). Studies are hard, yet the reward is great. They lead to a knowledge of the world and of God. May God enlighten our hearts and minds as we listen now to the word of God.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

535 *A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.* Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the book of Sirach:

6:32-37 If you are willing to listen you will learn.

If you wish, you can be taught; if you apply yourself, you will be shrewd. If you are willing to listen, you will learn; if you give heed, you will be wise. Frequent the company of the elders; whoever is wise, stay close to him. Be eager to hear every godly discourse; let no wise saying escape you. If you see a man of prudence, seek him out; let your feet wear away his doorstep! Reflect on the precepts of the LORD, let his commandments be your constant meditation; Then he will enlighten your mind, and the wisdom you desire he will grant.

536 *Or: Wisdom 7:9-21--Learn wisdom. Sirach 4:11-18--The rewards of wisdom. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11--This is the gospel I preached to you.*

537 *As circumstances suggest, the following responsorial psalm may be sung, or some other suitable song.*

R. Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm 111 I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart in the company and assembly of the just. R.

Great are the works of the LORD, exquisite in all their delights. Majesty and glory are his work, and his justice endures forever. R.

He has won renown for his wondrous deeds; gracious and merciful is the LORD. He has given food to those who fear him; he will forever be mindful of his covenant. R.

He has made known to his people the power of his works, giving them the inheritance of the nations. R.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; sure are all his precepts, Reliable forever and ever, wrought in truth and equity. R.

He has sent deliverance to his people; he has ratified his covenant forever; holy and awesome is his name. R.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; prudent are all who live by it. His praise endures forever. R.

538 As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.

INTERCESSIONS

539 The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says: God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.

R. Fill us with your wisdom, Lord.

Assisting minister: For students(as they begin this new school year), that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding, let us pray to the Lord. R7.

Assisting minister: For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister: For those who seek knowledge of the things of this world, that they may always pursue God's wisdom, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Assisting minister: For parents, the first teachers of their children, that their faith and love may be an example to us always, let us pray to the Lord. R.

540 *After the intercessions the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.* Taught by our Savior's command and formed by the word of God, we pray:

All: Our Father . . .

PRAYER OF BLESSING

541 *A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched over the students and teachers; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.*

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. In times long past you sent us your prophets to teach your laws and to bear witness to your undying love. You sent us your Son to teach us by word and example that true wisdom comes from you alone.

Send your Spirit upon these students and their teachers and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that during this academic year they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learned from others.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

542 *Or:*

Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways.

Look upon these students. Let them enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them to persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that students and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

543 *A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by saying:* May God teach you his ways and lead you to the joys of his kingdom, now and for ever. R. Amen.

Then he blesses all present. And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.

544 *A lay minister concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:* May God teach us his ways and lead us to the joys of his kingdom, now and for ever. R. Amen.

545 *It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.*

III. SHORTER RITE

546 *All make the sign of the cross as the minister says:* Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All reply: Now and for ever.

547 *One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:* Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the book of Sirach:

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Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience; and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds.

Grant that students and teachers alike may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Prayer Source: *Book of Blessings* by Prepared by International Commission on English in the Liturgy A Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1989