

Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



Rogation Days: Blessing of Fields and Gardens

(Reprinted from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, 166-169.)

The Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated on the three days before the Solemnity of the Ascension. They may now be celebrated at any time when it is appropriate to ask that gardens, fields, and orchards be blessed during the coming season. The blessing takes place in the midst of the garden or field.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

**Let us together praise the Lord,
from whom we have rain from the heavens
and abundance from the earth.
Blessed be God now and for ever.**

All respond:

Amen.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Let us bless God, whose might has created the earth and whose providence has enriched it. God has given us the earth to cultivate, so that we may gather its fruits to sustain life. As we thank God for this bounty, let us learn also, as the Gospel teaches, to seek first God's way of holiness: then all we need will be given us besides.

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(Rogation Days: Blessing of Fields and Gardens continued)

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the book of Genesis:

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, . . .

God said, “Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.” And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was.

God also said: “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Gn 1:1, 11-12, 29-31

(The family’s Bible may be used for an alternate reading, such as Mark 4:26-29.)

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(Rogation Days: Blessing of Fields and Gardens continued)

The reader concludes:

The Word of the Lord.

All respond:

Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, the prayers of intercession may take the form of the Litany of the Saints (page 348 [of Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers]). This may be chanted while processing through the garden or fields.

Then the leader prays:

**O God,
from the very beginning of time
you commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation
and every fruit of every kind.
You provide the sower with seed and give bread to eat.
Grant, we pray, that this land,
enriched by your bounty and cultivated by human hands,
may be fertile with abundant crops.
Then your people, enriched by the gifts of your goodness,
will praise you unceasingly now and for all ages unending.**

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

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(Rogation Days: Blessing of Fields and Gardens continued)

All make the sign of the cross as the leader concludes:

**May God, the source of every good,
bless us and give success to our work,
so that we may receive the joy of his gifts
and praise his name now and for ever.**

R. Amen.

The leader says:

Let us bless the Lord.

All respond, making the sign of the cross:

Thanks be to God.

The blessing may conclude with an appropriate song.

When man turns his back on the Creator's plan, he provokes a disorder which has inevitable repercussions on the rest of created order. If man is not at peace with God, then earth itself cannot be at peace. . . .

John Paul II
1990 World Day of Peace Message

Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



Assumption Day: Blessing of Produce

(Reprinted from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, 170-173.)

On August 15, or another appropriate day, the produce of fields, gardens, and orchards may be blessed. Those who take part should assemble in an appropriate place around the grains, fruits, and vegetables to be blessed.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

Let us ever praise and extol God's all-embracing providence, who gives us food from the fruits of the earth. Blessed be God for ever.

All respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

The Lord has bestowed the fruits of the earth for the benefit of all of the world's people. May we share with all in need and so be good stewards of God's earth and its abundance. We remember the words Mary speaks in the gospel story of the visitation: "The hungry he has filled with good things."

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(Assumption Day: Blessing of Produce continued)

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the prophet Joel:

**Fear not, O land!
exult and rejoice!
for the LORD has done great things.
Fear not, beasts of the field!
for the pastures of the plain are green;
The tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and the vine give their yield.
And do you, O children of Zion,
exult and rejoice in the LORD, your God!
He has given you the teacher of justice:
He has made the rain come down for you,
the early and the late rain as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain
and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.**

**You shall eat and be filled,
and shall praise the name of the LORD, your God,
Because he has dealt wondrously with you. . . .**

Jl 2:21-24, 26

(The family's Bible may be used for an alternate reading such as Deuteronomy 28:1-6.)



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(Assumption Day: Blessing of Produce continued)

The reader concludes:

This is the Word of the Lord.

All respond:

Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession. The following petitions may be included. On August 15, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (page 343 [of Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers]) may be used.

That the rights and needs of all may be recognized and provided:

we pray to the Lord.

That all may be fed and none go hungry:

we pray to the Lord.

That all may have life and have its fullness:

we pray to the Lord.

That we may give thanks not only with our lips but in our lives:

we pray to the Lord.

That God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven:

we pray to the Lord.

After the Lord's Prayer, the leader may invite all to extend their hands in blessing:



Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



(Assumption Day: Blessing of Produce continued)

**All-powerful God,
we appeal to your tender care
that even as you temper the winds and rains
to nurture the fruits of the earth
you will also send upon them the gentle shower of your blessing.**

**Fill the hearts of your people with gratitude,
that from the earth's fertility
the hungry may be filled with good things
and the poor and needy proclaim the glory of your name.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.**

All make the sign of the cross as the leader concludes:

**Let us bless God,
for ever let us praise and extol the name
of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with an appropriate song.

Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



St. Francis: Blessing of Animals

(Reprinted from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, 174-176.)

On October 4, or another appropriate day, the household may join in the blessing of pets and other animals. The blessing takes place wherever the animals can be gathered. Stories about Saint Francis (Francis and the wolf at Gubbio, for example) could precede the blessing.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

**Wonderful are all God's works.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

All respond:

Now and for ever.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea. They share in the ways of human beings. They have a part in our lives. Francis of Assisi recognized this when he called the animals, wild and tame, his brothers and sisters. Remembering Francis' love for these brothers and sisters of ours, we invoke God's blessing on these animals, and we thank God for letting us share the earth with all the creatures.

Then the Scripture is read:

Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



(St. Francis: Blessing of Animals continued)

Listen to the words of the book of Genesis:

[In the beginning,] God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Evening came and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was.

Gn 1:20-25

(The family’s Bible may be used for an alternate reading such as Isaiah 11:6-10.)

The reader concludes:

This is the Word of the Lord.

All respond:

Thanks be to God.



Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



(St. Francis: Blessing of Animals continued)

After a time of silence, those present offer prayers of intercession for their animals and for all creatures. After the Lord's Prayer, the leader invites all to hold or place their hands on their animals in blessing:

**O God,
you have done all things wisely;
in your goodness you have made us in your image
and given us care over other living things.
Reach out with your right hand
and grant that these animals may serve our needs
and that your bounty in the resources of this life
may move us to seek more confidently
the goal of eternal life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.**

All make the sign of the cross as the leader concludes:

**May God, who created the animals of this earth as a help to us,
continue to protect and sustain us
with the grace his blessing brings,
now and for ever.
R. Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with an appropriate song.

Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



Other Prayers for Animals

(Reprinted from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, 177.)

O Heavenly Father,
protect and bless all things that have breath.
Guard them from all evil,
and let them sleep in peace.

—Albert Schweitzer

Hear our humble prayer, O God,
for our friends the animals, your creatures.
We pray especially for all that are suffering in any way:
for the overworked and underfed,
the hunted, lost, or hungry;
for all in captivity or ill-treated,
and for those that must be put to death.

For those who deal with them,
we ask a gentle heart of compassion,
gentle hands, and kindly words.
Make us all true friends to animals
and worthy followers of our merciful Savior, Jesus Christ.

R. Amen.

Blessings for Use on Special Occasions



Blessing for the Products of Nature

(Reprinted from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, 323.)

Blessed are you, O God,
Creator of the universe,
who have made all things good
and given the earth for us to cultivate.
Grant that we may always use created things gratefully
and share your gift with those in need,
out of the love of Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

Blessing for the Products of Human Labor

(Reprinted from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, 323.)

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have made us stewards over the created world,
so that in all things we might honor the demands of charity.
Graciously hear our prayers,
that your blessing may come upon all those
who use these objects for their needs.
Let them always see you as the good surpassing every good
and love their neighbor with upright hearts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.