

Saint Ann Church
Catechetical Sunday

Following the homily, the celebrant calls the catechists to come forward as a group. The celebrant may then introduce the blessing, using the following or other similar words.

Introduction of Catechists: The celebrant addresses the assembly.

CELEBRANT:

For the pastoral activity of the Church, the cooperation of a great many people is needed, so that communities as well as individuals may advance to full maturity in faith and continually show forth their faith through the celebration of the liturgy, through study, and through their manner of life.

This cooperation is provided by those who devote themselves to catechesis. Enlightened by God's Word and the teaching of the Church, catechists impart to others an initiation or a deeper formation in those realities that they themselves have learned as truths to be followed in living and to be celebrated in liturgy.

In this celebration we will bless the name of the Lord for giving us such co-workers and pray that through the Holy Spirit they will receive the grace they need in their service to the Church.

Blessing of Catechists

CELEBRANT: I ask all catechists to please come forward.

CELEBRANT:

Now I ask you, are you willing to exercise the ministry of catechesis here at St. Ann?

CATECHISTS:

With the help of God, I am ready and willing to serve as a catechist along with all the catechists of this parish.

CELEBRANT:

May God help you to be good stewards to what has been entrusted to you, and may you and all the catechists who serve in this parish receive the grace you need for service here at St. Ann.

General Intercessions

The general intercessions follow the introduction to the blessing. These intercessions may be used in whole or in part. Always include your own intentions to local needs.

CELEBRANT:

God created us to live and grow in love. By being stewards of God's gifts, we take an active part in bringing this vision of life into being. Confident in the power of prayer to transform us, we bring our needs to God who hears and answers us.

ASSISTANT:

The response is "Lord, hear our prayer."

For the Church: May it grow stronger in its resolve to welcome and embrace those who are living on the margins of society. For this, we pray to the Lord:

For the leaders of nations: May their first concern be to preserve and foster peace through compassionate policies and just systems. For this, we pray to the Lord:

For those who suffer from physical and mental illness: May they be healed through God's infinite mercy and be comforted by those who care for them. For this, we pray to the Lord:

For families: May they grow stronger in their love and commitment to one another. For this, we pray to the Lord:

For catechists: May they be blessed with creativity and enthusiasm as stewards of God's gifts. For this, we pray to the Lord:

BLESSING:

The blessing of catechists follows the general intercessions. As an alternative, the prayer of blessing may be used at the end of Mass after an invitation such as: "Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing." With hands outstretched, the celebrant prays the blessing for the catechists.

CELEBRANT:

Lord God, source of all wisdom and knowledge, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us and to proclaim his message of faith, hope, and love to all nations in your goodness bless our brothers and sisters who have offered themselves as catechists for your Church. Strengthen them with your gifts, that they may teach by word and by example the truth that comes from you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen