



At Seedtime: Celebrating a Diocesan Day of Prayer ***Monday, February 5, 2024***

Seeds represent a microcosm of all life. By our prayer, we acknowledge God's love for all creation and our responsibility to care for it. As planting season begins in late winter or early spring we the Church seek God's blessing on seeds, crops, and all creation. Gardeners, farmers, and all growers especially ask God's protection for seeds (or young plants) in fields, gardens, and greenhouses.

In the past, the Church marked certain times of the year with Ember Days and Rogation Days, including prayers for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time, as well as prayers for the Blessing of Fields and Flocks (*Book of Blessings*).

Our diocesan day of prayer occurs on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024. Parishes can celebrate God's gift of seeds as a microcosm of all life in several ways:

- Parish masses on Feb. 5 use the Roman Missal's prayers "At Seedtime" (#27 from Masses for Various Needs and Occasions). Blessing of seeds can occur in this context.
- Parish formation efforts can use this insert from the Office of Divine Worship (<https://kcsjatholic.org/office/divine-worship>) with children or youth for sacramental preparation, or for Care of Creation ministries.
- Households, religious communities, or other spiritual groups can use the insert on a suitable day later in the planting season.
- Fr. Paul Turner will bless seeds at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Feb. 5 at 12:15 p.m. mass. Seeds can be brought in person or sent with someone ahead of time. Especially invited are gardeners, farmers, greenhouse growers, and all who work with plants or seeds.



Blessing of Seeds 2024

Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us praise God, who plants the seeds and reaps the harvest. Blessed be God forever. **R.** Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Today we seek God's blessing of these seeds and the crops they will produce. Christ reminds us that, unless the seed is planted in the earth and dies, it will not yield fruit. As these seeds grow and are cared for, may they be signs of the new life from God. *{Book of Blessings 992}*

Scripture Reading (suggestions)

Genesis 1:1, 1-12, 27-31 Deuteronomy 28:1-6 Isaiah 55:10-13 Joel 2:21-26
2 Corinthians 9:6-10 Matthew 13:31-36 Mark 4:26-29 Luke 12:16-21 John 12:23-25

Intercessions *{Adapted and abridged from Book of Blessings 979}*

Almighty God look with benign providence on your children; give us nourishment and growth by blessing the earth with the fruitfulness that sustains human life. As your children, we pray to you by saying: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

- You bless the earth and abundance flows in its pastures; grant that by your blessing, our fields may yield the food we need. **R.**
- You make the wheat grow that provides our daily bread and the gift of the eucharist; give us a crop made rich by abundant rain and fertile soil. **R.**
- You feed the birds of the air and clothe the lilies of the field; teach us not to worry about what we are to eat or drink or wear, but to seek first your way of holiness. **R.**
- You have told us that Christ is the vine and we are branches; grant that by living in your Son we may produce much good fruit. **R.**

Conclusion

O God, from the very beginning of time you commanded the earth to bring forth vegetation and 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 ages unending. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen. *{Book of Blessings 982}*

Closing Song suggestions:

- A. (Sung to the tune of "All Creatures of our God and King")

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds rich blessing on our way,
O praise God! Alleluia!

The fruits and flowers that verdant grow,
Let them praise his abundant show.
O praise God, O praise God,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. (St. Francis of Assisi)

- B. (sung to the tune of AR HYD NOS ["All Through the Night"])

For the fruits of this creation,
Thanks be to God;
For the gifts to ev'ry nation,
Thanks be to God;
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping,
Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done;
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done;
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing
God's will is done; (© F. Pratt Green)