

BLESSING OF THOSE WHO WILL READ THE BIBLE

The presider may offer this prayer after Mass. Instruct people to hold their Bibles to their chests.

PRESIDER: *(Instruct those gathered in these words or in your own words.)*

The Bible is already the blessed Word of God. It does not require a blessing.

So we take this moment to pray for God's blessing upon us as we commit to read our Bibles and let God's Word guide our lives.

The Bible you hold in your hands is the inspired word of the Lord. As Catholics, we believe this is the holy book of the Church, the sacred literature of God's people. Our Church encourages us to read and reflect frequently on the pages of this book so that we may be continually formed into committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

Let us continue the ancient practice of asking the Holy Spirit, who inspired these writings, to help us as we study and pray these Scriptures. May we listen to the word of God in these texts and find our nourishment and strength in its message.

Hold your Bibles near your hearts, in the place of the Lord's Eucharistic presence, and please respond: "Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love."

Pause for a moment of silence.

PRESIDER: May the Holy Spirit encourage us to give greater honor to this holy Bible, enthrone it in a place of honor in our homes, and commit to frequent reflection on its pages.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.

PRESIDER: May the Holy Spirit instill in us a deep desire to know God's word so that we will grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of

your love.

PRESIDER: Through the Holy Spirit, may our reading of Scripture lead us to a deeper faith, a more lively hope, and a more fervent love for the Lord and his holy church.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Instruct the people to place their hands on their Bibles during the blessing.

PRESIDER: Let us pray:

Saving God, you have revealed your life and your love through the lives of our ancestors in the faith. From Abraham and Sarah, Moses and David, Mary and Joseph, Peter and Paul, you have spoken your word and called your people to fuller life. We honor your presence in these Scriptures, and we pray that the words of this sacred book may become for us more deeply the living word of God, forming our thoughts, desires, and actions. We ask your blessings on us, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Written by Stephen J. Binz.

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