

Blessing for Boy Scout Sunday in Your Parish



"Nature holds a special attraction for many adolescents and young people... Such is the case with the scouting movement and other groups that encourage closeness to nature, camping trips, hiking, expeditions, and campaigns to improve the environment. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, these experiences can be a real initiation into the school of universal fraternity and contemplative prayer."

Pope Francis, (*Christus Vivit* 228)

Blessing of Boy Scouts & their Leaders

The Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry along with the Catholic Committee on Scouting encourages all parishes to take time at a Mass on February 4th, 2024 to engage Boy Scouts and their Leaders in the life of the parish by assuring them that the prayers of the community are with.

Just before the final blessing (similar to Mother's Day or Father's Day), ask all Scouts and their Leaders to stand as the priest or deacon blesses them with these words:

Lord God, source of our strength and skill, we ask Your blessing on these Scouts and their Leaders whom we recognize today.

As they advance in the Scouting program may they grow each day in wisdom, age, and grace and by seeking your will for their lives, strive to become the people you created them to be.

Send your Spirit upon these Scouts and their Leaders that they may follow Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



In Addition we encourage Parishes to review the Resource Document on "Celebrating Boy Scout Sunday" in your Parish



Celebrating Boy Scout Sunday in Your Parish



What is Boy Scout Sunday?

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8— Scouting Anniversary Day as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. In 2024 this will be celebrated on Sunday February 4th, 2024.

Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the mid-1940s to bring greater awareness to Scouting and to allow Scouts to live out their “Duty to God” pledged each week.

The Scout Law says that “A Scout is Reverent” and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their “Duty to God”. These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

Celebrating Boy Scout Sunday at your local parish

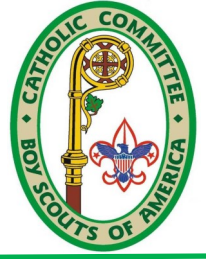
Scout Sunday is an opportunity for parishes to recognize the young people in their parish involved in the Scouting program, and the partnership between the parish and the Scouting.

Each Parish and Unit may do things differently but here are some suggestions that may be helpful:

- Invite Scouts in your parish to attend Mass in their uniform and sit together.
- Consider offering a Blessing to all Scouts and their Leaders that are in attendance at Mass after
- Allow the Scouts of your parish to stand at the doors of your Church and greet church members and visitors.
- If Scouts are trained Altar Servers, consider having them Altar Serve in their Scout uniform at the Mass that you recognize Scouts.
- Consider bringing Scouting elements to the service. As part of it, have the priest celebrating the Mass ask the Scoutmaster to come forward and lead all current and former Scouts and leaders in the congregation in the Scout Oath.
- Consider having the Scouts offer some form of Hospitality after the Mass for parishioners to build community.
- Consider allowing the Unit to set up a table for recruiting/ advertising for the Unit.
- Many Councils conduct a Scouting for Food Drive as a part of Scout Week. Consider hosting a Canned Food Drive or some other form of collection that can benefit the local community.



Celebrating Boy Scout Sunday in Your Parish



- Consider before the Final Blessing at Mass to all a Scout Leader, Eagle Scout or a Scout to share a few moments briefly on the Scouting and the connection to the Parish and Community
- Consider allowing Scouts and their Leaders to serve as Ushers at Mass
- Acknowledge at a Mass those Scouts that have completed any of the Religious Emblem Awards ,or any Unit that might have earned their Unit Award
- Honor and acknowledge any Eagle Scouts that you might have in your parish at a special Mass
- Consider allowing the Scouts and their leaders to process up the center aisle of the Church right before the beginning of Mass and the Opening Procession of the Cross, Priest, etc
- Consider having the Scouts create a 1 page bulletin insert, or a bulletin blurb to share about the Unit and their involvement and participation in the Parish and community

