

# Blessing for Girl 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 Girl 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 March 10th, 2024 to engage Girl 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 Girl Scout Sunday” in your Parish**



# Celebrating Girl Scout Sunday in Your Parish



## What is Girl Scout Sunday?

Girl Scout Sunday celebrates the powerful ties between Girl Scouting and faith. Girl Scouts are encouraged to connect their faith to the Girl Scout Law and Promise. Each year Girl Scout Sunday kicks off Girl Scout Week in the United States. This Sunday is meant not only connect the Unit to their faith, but to recognize the contributions of young people and adults in Girl Scouting. In 2024 this will be celebrated on Sunday March 10th, 2024.

The Girl Scout Promise States: On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country,  
To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and their faith.

## Celebrating Girl 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 Girl Scout Leader to come forward and lead all current and former Scouts and leaders in the congregation in the Girl Scout Promise or Girl Scout Law.
- 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 Units 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 Girl Scout Sunday in Your Parish



- Consider before the Final Blessing at Mass to call a Scout Leader, Gold Award Recipient or a Scout to share a few moments briefly on 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 Catholic Patches
- Honor and acknowledge any Gold Award Recipients 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

