

Order for the Blessing of a Person Suffering from Addiction or from Substance Abuse from the Book of Blessings (Modified to be used with multiple people)

INTRODUCTION

- 407 Addiction to alcohol, drugs, and other controlled substances causes great disruption in the life of an individual and his or her family. This blessing is intended to strengthen the addicted person in the struggle to overcome addiction and also to assist his or her family and friends.
- 408 This blessing may also be used for individuals who, although not addicted, abuse alcohol or drugs and wish the assistance of God's blessing in their struggle.
- 409 Ministers should be aware of the spiritual needs of a person suffering from addiction or substance abuse, and to this end the pastoral guidance on the care of the sick and rites of *Pastoral Care of the Sick* will be helpful.
- 410 If the recovery process is slow or is marked by relapses, the blessing may be repeated when pastorally appropriate.
- 411 These orders may be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a lay person, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.

A. ORDER OF BLESSING

Introductory Rites

- 412 *When the community has gathered, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the minister says:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All make the sign of the cross and reply:
Amen.

- 414 *A lay minister greets those present in the following words:*

Let us praise God our creator, who gives us courage and strength,
now and for ever.

Amen.

- 415 *In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.*

God created the world and all things in it and entrusted them into our hands that we might use them for our good and for the building up of the Church and human society. Today we pray for those burdened with addiction, that God may strengthen their weakness and restore them to the freedom of God's children. We pray also for ourselves that we may encourage and support them in the days ahead.

Reading of the Word of God

416 *A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.*

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

417 *Or:*

Isaiah 63:7-9 - He has favored us according to his mercy.

Romans 8:18-25 - I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us.

Matthew 15:21-25 - Woman, you have great faith.

418 *As circumstances suggest, one of the following responsorial psalms may be sung or said, or some other suitable song.*

Psalms 121

R. *Our help is from the Lord who made heaven and earth.*

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;
whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. **R.**

May he not suffer your foot to slip;
may he slumber not who guards you:
Indeed, he neither slumbers nor sleeps,
the guardian of Israel. **R.**

The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your shade;
he is beside you at your right hand.
The sun shall not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night. **R.**

The Lord will guard you from all evil;
he will guard your life.
The Lord will guard your coming and your going,
both now and forever. **R.**

Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. (v.5) *My soul trusts in the Lord.*

419 *As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.*

Intercessions

420 *The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.*

The minister says:

Our God gives us life and constantly calls us to new life; let us pray to God with confidence.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

For those addicted to drugs, that God may be their strength and support, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For those bound by the chains of addiction, that we encourage and assist them in their struggle, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For those who are despondent, that they may trust in the mercy of God through whom all things are possible, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For family and friends, that with faith and patience they may show them their love, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For first responders, hospital personnel and mental health professionals who support those dealing with addiction and substance abuse, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For the Church, that we may always be attentive to those in need, we pray. **R.**

421 *After the Intercessions the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.*

Let us pray to our merciful God as Jesus taught us:

All:

Our Father...

Prayer of Blessing

422 A lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

For addiction or substance abuse

God of mercy,
we bless you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who ministered to all who came to him.
Give your strength to your servants,
bound by the chains of addiction.
Enfold them in your love
and restore them to the freedom of God's children.

Lord,
look with compassion on all those
who have lost their health and freedom.
Restore to them the assurance of your
unfailing mercy,
and strengthen them in the work of recovery.

To those who care for them,
grant patient understanding and a love
that perseveres.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

As circumstances suggest, the minister in silence may sprinkle the person with holy water.

Concluding Rite

May Almighty God bless you all,
the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit
R. Amen

424 *A lay minister concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:*

May our all-merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and embrace us
in love for ever.
R. Amen

425 *It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.*

B. SHORTER RITE

426 *All make the sign of the cross as the minister says:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All reply:

Who made heaven and earth.

427 One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

428 *Or:*

Isaiah 63:7-9 - He has favored us according to his mercy.

Matthew 15:21-25 - Woman, you have great faith.

429 *A lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.*

For addiction or substance abuse

God of mercy,
we bless you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who ministered to all who came to him.
Give your strength to *N.*, your servant,
bound by the chains of addiction.
Enfold him/her in your love
and restore him/her to the freedom of God's children.

Lord,
look with compassion on all those
who have lost their health and freedom.
Restore to them the assurance of your
unfailing mercy,
and strengthen them in the work of recovery.

To those who care for them,
grant patient understanding and a love
that perseveres.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Ritual Prayer for the Sick

from Pastoral Care of the Sick

The following prayers "Visits to the Sick" from Pastoral Care of the Sick may be appropriate and helpful for those suffering from addiction. This rite may be celebrated with one person, or with a community.

SONG

SIGN OF THE CROSS

INTRO: Addiction is an illness that affects brain chemistry and requires both a medical and a spiritual response.

We pray today for those burdened with addiction.

We pray that God may strengthen their weakness and restore them to life.

READING Matt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

At that time Jesus answered,
"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart;
and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

RESPONSE

A brief period of silence may be observed after the reading of the word of God. An appropriate psalm or one of the following psalms may be used.

A

(Psalm 102)

R. O Lord, hear my prayer and let my cry come to you.

O Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come to you.
Hide not your face from me
in the day of my distress.
Incline your ear to me;
in the day when I call, answer me speedily. **R.**

He has broken down my strength;
he has cut short my days.
I say: O my God,
Take me not hence in the midst of my days;
through all generations your years endure. **R.**

Let this be written for the generation to come,
and let his future creatures praise the Lord:
“The Lord looked down from his holy height,
from heaven he beheld the earth,
to hear the groaning of the prisoners,
to release those doomed to die.” **R.**

B

(Psalm 27)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid? **R.**

One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek:
To dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the Lord
and contemplate his temple. **R.**

For he will hide me in his abode
in the day of trouble;
He will conceal me in the shelter of his tent,
he will set me high upon a rock. **R.**

The minister may then give a brief explanation of the reading, applying it to the needs of the sick person and those who are looking after him or her.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The minister introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or similar words:

Now let us offer together the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The minister says a concluding prayer. One of the following may be used.

A

Father,
your Son accepted our sufferings
to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness.
Hear the prayers we offer for those who suffer from addiction.
May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease
realize that they have been chosen to be saints
and know that they are joined to Christ
in his suffering for the salvation of the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

B

All-powerful and ever-living God,
the lasting health of all who believe in you,
hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick;
restore their health,
that they may again offer joyful thanks in your Church.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

C

All-powerful and ever-living God,
we find security in your forgiveness.
Give us serenity and peace of mind;
may we rejoice in your gifts of kindness
and use them always for your glory and our good.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The minister may give a blessing.

All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God,
for you have called us to serve you in love.
Bless all those who struggle with addiction
so that they may bear this illness
in union with your Son's obedient suffering.
Restore them to health,
and lead them to glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CLOSING

If the minister is a priest or deacon, he immediately concludes:

May the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come upon you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

The priest may lay hands upon the sick person's head

A minister who is not a priest or deacon invokes God's blessing and makes the sign of the cross on himself or herself, while saying:

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.

R/. Amen

The minister may then trace the sign of the cross on the sick person's forehead.

INTERCESSIONS

(These may be used as a set for prayer services. For Mass, select one or two intercessions to add to your usual intentions and then change them each week.)

Let us bring our concerns and needs before our Lord and pray: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those bound by the chains of addiction, may they find courage and strength from God to take the next step on a journey toward healing: **R.**

For families who have been robbed of their loved one because of addiction, that they may be able to show their love and compassion with faith and patience, we pray: **R.**

For all those who minister to those struggling with the impact of the illness of addiction, that they may seek strength, support, and healing in their God, we pray: **R.**

For those who have lost loved ones due to drugs, that they may know that the ties of love that bind us together on earth do not dissolve with death. **R.**

For those who have died, having lost the battle against drugs and addiction, that they may find peace, forgiveness and eternal rest. **R.**

For all of us here, that we may be attentive to those who are weighed down with the burden of addiction, and seek ways to stand by them and their families through prayer, encouragement and assistance, we pray: **R.**

The minister says:

Let us bring our concerns and needs before our Lord and pray: Lord, hear our prayer.

Our God gives us life and constantly calls us to new life; let us pray to God with confidence.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

For those addicted to opioid drugs, that God may be their strength and support, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For those bound by the chains of addiction, that we encourage and assist them in their struggle, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For those who are despondent, that they may trust in the mercy of God through whom all things are possible, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For family and friends, that with faith and patience they may show them their love, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For first responders, hospital personnel and medical professionals, who support those dealing with addiction and substance abuse, we pray. **R.**

Assisting minister:

For the Church, that it may always be attentive to those in need, we pray. **R.**