

## First Blessing of Newly Ordained Priest

When a priest celebrates his First Mass after ordination, it is an opportunity for the faithful in attendance to gain a plenary indulgence if all the usual conditions are met (these conditions are [listed here](#)). Holy Mother Church updated this tradition by granting a plenary indulgence to all first Masses the priest celebrates. The additional first Masses are sometimes called Masses of Thanksgiving.

Although not a plenary indulgence, an additional grace may be gained from receiving the first blessing of a newly ordained priest. First blessings are customarily given when first Masses are celebrated, but they may be given up to a full year after ordination.

There is no set prayer for first blessings in the *Rituále Románum*, the official book of blessings for the Extraordinary Form. One common form of blessing is as follows:

*Per impositionem mánuum meárum  
sacerdotálium, et per intercessiónem beátæ  
Maríæ semper Vírginis, et Sancti (Sanctæ)...,  
et ómnium Sanctórum; Benedictio Dei  
Omnipoténtis, Patris, et Filii, et Spíritus  
Sancti, descéndat super te et máneat  
semper. Amen.*

*May, through the imposition of my hands  
and upon the intercession of Holy Mary  
Mother of God, St. Joseph, Sts. N. (patron  
saint) and N. (of the priest's choosing), the  
blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, the  
Son and the Holy Spirit, come upon thee and  
remain with thee forever. Amen.*

The faithful kneel at the communion rail to receive the blessing. Upon receiving it, the faithful kiss the palms of the newly ordained priest in recognition of the sacred character of his priesthood and of the hands that now hold the Eucharist and confer the sacraments.



*Receiving first blessing from Fr. Michael Malain, FSSP, June 14, 2015*