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**PRAYERS FOR THE SOIL AND SEED,  
AND THOSE WHO WORK THE LAND**

**75**  
YEARS OF  
LIVING  
THE FAITH



**CHRIST**  
YESTERDAY. TODAY. FOREVER.

**DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE**

*Begin your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.*

*One of the following passages of Scripture may be read as a reminder of God's continued blessings on his people.*

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#### SCRIPTURES

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**Genesis 1:11-12**—Then God said: Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And so it happened: the earth brought forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw that it was good.

**Psalm 65:10-11**—You visit the earth and water it, make it abundantly fertile. God's stream is filled with water; you supply their grain. Thus do you prepare it: you drench its plowed furrows, and level its ridges. With showers you keep it soft, blessing its young sprouts.

**Psalm 90:14, 16-17**—Fill us at daybreak with your mercy, that all our days we may sing for joy. Show your deeds to your servants, your glory to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God be ours. Prosper the work of our hands!

**James 5:7-8**—Be patient, therefore, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**Matthew 6:31-34**—So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil."

*Mindful of God's care for his people and his creation, we then ask for God's blessing on our tools, fields, flocks, and seeds, and those who will work with them.*

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**PRAYERS OF BLESSING**

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**For Those Who Labor**

O God, Creator of all things, who have commanded the human race to bear the burden of labor, grant that the work we are beginning may bring progress in this life and, by your favor, advance the spread of the Kingdom of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**For Animals**

O God, you have done all things wisely; in your goodness you have made us in your image and given us care over other living things. Reach out with your right hand and grant that these animals may serve our needs and that your bounty in the resources of this life may move us to seek more confidently the goal of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**For Seeds**

Lord of the harvest, you placed the gifts of creation in our hands and called us to till the earth and make it fruitful. We ask your blessing as we prepare to place these seeds in the earth. May the care we show these seeds remind us of your tender love for your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**For Fields**

All-holy Lord and Father, you have commanded us to work the land and cultivate it. Your devoted people now pray that you will grant us an abundant harvest from our fields, vineyards and orchards. In your goodness protect our lands from wind and hail and let a rich crop grow from the seeds we plant. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## PRAYERS OF BLESSING

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### For Tools and Equipment

O God, the fullness of blessing comes down from you, to you our prayers of blessing rise up. In your kindness protect your servants, who stand before you devout and faithful, bearing the tools of their trade. Grant that their hard work may contribute to the perfecting of your creation and provide a decent life for themselves and their families. Help them to strive for a better society and to praise and glorify your holy name always. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### For Rain

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, grant us sufficient rain, so that, being supplied with what sustains us in this present life, we may seek more confidently what sustains us for eternity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### Thanksgiving For the Harvest

All-powerful God, we appeal to your tender care that even as you temper the winds and rains to nurture the fruits of the earth you will also send upon them the gentle shower of your blessing. Fill the hearts of your people with gratitude, that from the earth's fertility the hungry may be filled with good things and the poor and needy proclaim the glory of your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*At the conclusion of the prayer, you may sprinkle holy water on the various peoples or items.*