

Baptism Ceremony

WELCOME

Officiant:

Friends, we gather here today for the blessing of -- [THIS CHILD]

We wish to give thanks for him, with his family and friends,
and to support him parents in their responsibilities with prayer and love.
It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home,
grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns supreme.

This ceremony is not simply a “naming ceremony” or even just a blessing for a new baby.
It is the beginning of life and the gateway to eternal life.

Many people are overcome by a sense of awe at the creation of new life
and want to express their thanks to God.

This service provides an opportunity for parents and families
to give thanks for the birth of a child and to pray for family life.

[THESE PARENTS] wish to express their joy to you on the birth of [THIS CHILD].

They are pleased that he has arrived safely in this world.

They want to welcome him into their family,

to the wider family of their relatives, the community of their friends and the world.

They wish you all to share this joy.

It is certain that the more love this child receives the more she will benefit in his life
and the more love in turn she will be able to give to others.

The more people to whom this child relates the more balanced and rich her growth will be.

So your presence at this celebration today is appreciated,
as will be your interest and involvement in the years ahead.

PRAYER

Officiant:

Let us pray.

God bless this little boy.

Keep him safe within your sight and fill him with your precious love each day and every night.

Surround this child with happiness and contentment every day;

and as this child is growing, please guide her in every way.

This baby boy is a miracle – a blessing from above.

Thank you God for this precious gift of love.

Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARENTS

Officiant:

[MOTHER] may you always have the strength of your spirit to teach [THIS CHILD] how to stand and walk.

May you continually feed and nurture the life that was formed within you.

May he always be embraced in your love.

May you share his joy, love, laughter and take pride in who he is.

[FATHER] may you be honored for the many good things you want for your son.

May your love, affection and concern for Brayden always be part of you.

May your strength, wisdom and right direction be [THIS CHILD] guiding light.

May you always have the respect, obedience and deep affection of your son.

Recognizing this, you stand before us now as parents
to reaffirm your commitment to each other and to your son.

THE BLESSING WITH HOLY WATER

Little one, you are [CHILD'S NAME]

(Bless CHILD with Holy Water)

Your name has been given to you in love.

May it be a source of comfort and pride.

We wish you long life and happiness in a loving and peaceful world.

May you bring joy to your parents, your godparents, your grandparents,
and to each of us – your family and friends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANDPARENTS

It is not always possible for grandparents to involve themselves in the development of their grandchildren - but when they do it is a great bonus and blessing.

The important role played by grandparents is the passing on of cultural values to children. They assist children in finding their identity and their inner security – and to integrate themselves into society.

The special relationship of trust and mutual enjoyment which develops between child and grandparent is something very special. Through this relationship children learn their lineage, their history - and many values and skills. This cultural inheritance lays the foundation for the young person to construct their personality during childhood and adolescence and adds great meaning to their existence.

For this reason [PARENTS] wish to recognize and express their gratification that [CHILD'S] grandparents are here today. They also wish to recognize [CHILD'S] other Grandmother who could not be here today.

Your grandchild, [CHILD] is on the first rung of the ladder of life. He will bring you great joy and happiness as you watch him grow.

[PARENTS] would like to recognize them and express their adoration for them. We hope [CHILD] will bring as much love and joy to your life as you bring to his.

GODPARENTS CEREMONY

Officiant:

A tradition in our culture is the responsibility accepted by godparents. We live in the age of the nuclear family. At times we are isolated, which means godparents have a more important role than ever before.

[PARENTS] have asked their friends to be godparents to their son, [CHILD]. What a privilege and at the same time what a responsibility. You are to take a lifelong interest in the welfare of your godchild. You have consented to undertake the duties of godparents. Are you willing to form your life in such a way that it will be an example to [CHILD]?

Godparents: We are.

Officiant:

Parenting is never an easy task for it carries with it responsibilities as well as joys and delights. It helps knowing that you can share both your fears, as well as your pleasures with family and close friends, and seek their support when it is needed.

The privilege of being called to Godparent a child is an ancient and honored tradition. It acknowledges and values the importance of nurturing and taking responsibility for children in our wider community. By making a commitment at a ceremony, you show your love and support to the whole family.

Are you willing to follow and help guide [CHILD] through the various stages of his life, with understanding and a readiness and a willingness to listen?
To be a friend and confidante when necessary?
To give that loyalty and support to [PARENTS] when they need it?
Are you willing to accept the role of godparents in the name of love and friendship for [PARENTS]?

Godparents: We are.

Officiant:

I want the godparents to now touch this little one's hands, so that he may now know from your loving touch that he will receive all those personal gifts from you which you have undertaken to give today.

Now I would like to ask the godparents to come forward and light the candles. The lighting of the candle is the ceremonial acknowledgment that you accept the responsibilities laid upon you. The flame represents the light which will guide and protect [CHILD] through life's journey of tears and laughter, of joy and sadness, of happiness and sorrow and great love.

(Godparents light individual taper candles, followed by the lighting of the center candle)

[CHILD] we welcome you as a member of the community of life on Earth.
May all be well with you in your journey through life.
May the bright light of God's angels guard you.
May the bright light of God's love be with you.
May the bright light of the Spirits presence surround and enfold you all the days and nights of your life.
Amen.

FINAL WORDS/INTRODUCTION OF [CHILD]

We rejoice today with [PARENTS] as they celebrate the blessing of their son [CHILD] and thank God for the gift of life.

God, we thank you for the wonder of new life and the mystery of human love. We give thanks for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life. May these parents have your sustaining grace and love and may this child grow in strength and wisdom.

[CHILD] it is our duty, as your family and friends, to present you in the coming years with a broad and balanced view of life, and encourage you in the virtues we all agree as good – integrity, honesty, concern, fairness, and love toward fellow human beings.

We ask that all life's blessings be bestowed upon you, and that the future will be bright, prosperous and joyous. May you grow in health of body and mind to full adulthood, and may it be your good fortune to play some worthy part in making life more pleasant for those whose paths you cross.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I present to you the son of [PARENTS], their son [CHILD].