

Ceremony of Naming and Blessing for a New-born Baby:

We gather this afternoon to witness the commitment of (father) and (mother) to parenthood as they thank God for the gift of their child. We gather to welcome (child) as a new member of the Christian community. We are the community with whom he/she will celebrate life's special moments, and to whom he/she will turn in times of need.

In this special circle of family and friends, we are bound together by love and respect; may we always have a profound love for (child) and a deep respect for one another. The love of (father) and (mother) will teach (child) the beauty of feelings, the importance of communication and the comfort of presence. Recognizing this we beg you, as parents, to reaffirm your commitment to one another and to your child.

(Father), do you commit yourself to (mother) as her partner, promising to support her as the mother of your child?

I do.

(Mother), do you commit yourself to (father) as his partner, promising to support him as the father of your child?

I do.

What name do you give your child?

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah 44 : 1 – 5

The Lord says this :

'Listen now, Israel, my servant,
my chosen people, the descendants of Jacob.
I am the Lord who created you;
From the time you were born I have helped you.
Do not be afraid; you are my servant,
my chosen people whom I love.

I will pour out my spirit on your children
and my blessing on your descendants.
They will thrive like well-watered grass,
like willows by streams of running water.

Prayer of Blessing for the Child

We cherish (child) in name and in person.
Our hope and dream for (child) from today, for all the days of his/her life,
is to enjoy health, strength and wisdom,
to be rich in love, peace and pleasure,
and to find the guidance and care of family, friend and community.
Here and now we each pledge to play our part.

Father :

It is with great joy that (mother's name) and I
accept from God the gift of our child.
We present to you, our family and community,
this our child, whom we call (child's name)
and today dedicate to God.
May our child and his/her name be forever enrolled in the Book of Life.

As parents we ask your prayers and support
so that we may show (child) the path of life,
by our lives lived in love of God and one another.
May you who are his/her family and friends
likewise, be good examples for him/her
by showing him/her the way to live
as a family united in God.

Mother :

I, your mother,
bless you with tenderness
and call upon God to watch over you, my child,
all the days of your life.
You are the flower of the love between your father and me.
We know that you have a holy purpose in life,
that you are a royal and priestly person made in the image of Christ.

From all eternity,
from before the dawning light of creation,
God has known your name
and has held you as precious.
We rejoice, today, that this dream of God
has become flesh and blood,
has become our child.

As parents we ask the prayerful support of family and friends,
so that we may encourage you (child)
to become who you really are:
a unique and creative individual.

We pray that we will be good and loving parents to you
and may the blessing of God surround you
as we now surround you. Amen.

Blessing for Guardians / Godparents

(child' name), we rejoice in the honour
that has been given to us as your guardians,
to have you as a child of the Spirit of God.
We ask God's special blessing for you.
All children are children of God,
but you will be a godchild to us in a very special way.
We pledge to you, before all who are present,
our assistance and support at those times in your life when you need us.

May our lives as your guardians be for you
an example of steadfast faith,
undying hope and affectionate love.
We rejoice in this day along with your parents and family.
We see you as a gift from God and celebrate your birth,
knowing that you will bring grace and beauty to our world

Prayer of Blessing

May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you,
may wonder fulfil you and love surround you.
May your step be steady and your arm be strong,
may your heart be peaceful and your word be true.
May you seek to learn and learn to live,
may you live to love, and may you love – always.