

THANKSGIVING *for the* BIRTH *of A* CHILD

The Officiant addresses the mother and father

Dear Friends: The birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family, and an occasion for rejoicing in the Church. It has pleased Almighty God, our heavenly Father, to bless you with the gift of N., your *son/ daughter*.

The service continues with the Magnificat or Psalm 116, the Officiant first saying

Let us, therefore, give thanks to God in the words of Scripture.

MAGNIFICAT
The Song of Mary

**My soul magnifies the Lord, *
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
For he has regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from now on, *
all generations will call me blessed;
For he that is mighty has magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on those who fear him, *
throughout all generations
He has shown the strength of his arm; *
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has exalted the humble and meek.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

LUKE 1:46-55

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE CHILD

The Officiant then prays one or both of the following prayers.

Watch over your child N., O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless *him* and guide *him*, and keep *him* unspotted from the world. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Officiant may add one or more of the following prayers.

FOR THE PARENTS

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the Name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon this family in giving them this child. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Officiant prays for the family, saying

May God the Father, who through Baptism has adopted you as his children, grant you his grace. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who sanctified a home at Nazareth, fill you with his love. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who makes the Church one family, keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

A Priest may then bless the family, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Peace may be exchanged.