

Interfaith Baby Blessing Jewish And Christian Traditions



Example of an Interfaith Ceremony using traditions from the Jewish Faith and the Christian Faith.

This Ceremony can include a Baby Blessing with Water/or Rose Petals.

Greeting

Officiant:

Welcome friends and family! Today is a very special day for all of us. It is a day in which we celebrate the birth of this child _____.

What you are all about to witness here today is truly a celebration of love, and of life! As _____ is here today, she is new and perfect, with no need of fixing nor cleansing. She is a gift. Her smile, her laughter, and her presence enrich the lives of all who know her. Only half way through her first year here, 7 ½ months old, and already she has made the world a better place.

This child is our future and represents the light of the world. Parent Name and Parent Name have honored all of you today by inviting you to not only witness this beautiful welcoming ceremony, but most importantly, to participate in the blessing of this child.

Parent Name and Parent Name would like to take this moment to acknowledge loved ones who are no longer physically with us, but are here with us in spirit this evening as we celebrate this joyous occasion. In honor of Parent Name beloved parents, _____ and _____ I would like to recite The Mourners Kaddish.

The Kaddish praises God, and is said in memory of the dead. The Mourner's Kaddish is recited in every Jewish service. Our worship includes remembrances of our loved ones who are no longer with us. We sanctify their memories by extolling God's majesty, praising all God's creation, and praying for peace to reign everywhere.

The Kaddish keeps the living together, and forms a bridge to the mysterious realm of the dead. One might almost say that this prayer is the guardian of the people by whom it is uttered; therein lies the warrant of its continuance.

In reciting the Kaddish, we affirm our awareness of holiness in our world. Much of our experience of divine goodness, grace and love has come to us through those whose lives have touched our own. We invoke the ultimate power of love and caring as we sanctify God's name.

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which He has created according to His will.
May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and say, Amen.
May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.
Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and say, Amen.
May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen.
He who creates peace in His celestial heights, may He create peace for us and for all Israel; and say, Amen

(It is customary for a family member to again recite it in Hebrew)

Invocation

(this is the beginning blessing on this service that is about to begin):

Officiant:

In every birth, blessed is the wonder.
In every creation, blessed is the new beginning.
In every child, blessed is life.
In every hope, blessed is the potential.
In every transition, blessed is the beginning.
In every existence, blessed are the possibilities.
In every love, blessed are the tears.
In every life, blessed is the love.

There are three names by which a person is called:
One which her father and mother call her,
And one which people call her,
And one which she earns for herself.
The best one of these is the one that she earns for herself.'

Today we simply give thanks and celebrate all the many wonderful blessings Childs Name brings, and do our best to remember, and be thankful for, the very special role that we all have in her life.

Charge to Parents

Officiant:

Childs Name has honored you by choosing you as her parents. Therefore, honor her and remember that Childs Name is her own being with her own thoughts and feelings. She is a child of the universe and has been given many gifts from the Divine so that she can light the way for the future. Therefore, it is important for you to support her and protect her, so that her gifts may blossom and she can make this world better than it was before.

Parental Promise

Officiant:

Parent Name and Parent Name will you promise to love, nurture, and support Childs Name, and to create a healthy environment so that she may grow on her specific path? If so, please answer "We will."

Parents: We will

Charge to Godparents

Officiant:

Godparents are those who promise they will be there to help the child grow spiritually. There is a place in Childs Name's life almost like a guardian angel. The promise is one of a physical presence in her life as someone who she knows will always be standing quietly behind her, encouraging her to make good choices, and sharing with her the lessons they themselves have learned along the way.

Godparents come forward

Officiant:

While you are not Childs Name's parents the place that you have both taken in her life is an important one. Parent Name and Parent Name trust your motivations and your judgment

completely and they take comfort in knowing that although there will be times when Childs Name cannot come to them, that she will always be able to come to you for guidance and support. By accepting the role of Godparent you say to Childs Name and the world. I promise, I will be there for you as you grow into womanhood. With this in mind I now ask you...

Godparents Vows

Officiant:

Will you as best as you can, help take care of Childs Name?
To protect her at all times from harm?
To encourage, guide and support her in all her endeavors,
Help her recognize the beauty within herself and all things,
And to become someday not the woman we wish for her but the realization of her own hopes, dreams and the fulfillment of her soul?"

Godparents: "We will."

Officiant:

May you always know how special you are to Parent Name and Parent Name that they would ask you to tend to the most precious thing that they have in this world."

Christening Of Name

Officiant: To parents

What name have you chosen for your child?

Father: We have chosen the name (Childs Hebrew name) _____, to signify ____ (Father will explain the Hebrew meaning of her name)

Mother: We have also chosen the name Childs Name to represent the _____
(whatever the meaning of the child's name is)

The Blessing of the Child

(I will address the new baby and I will use the blessed water bless the top of her head, her forehead, her heart, both her hands and both her feet).

Officiant rubs the blessed water on the top of her head and say:

You are connected, protected, loved, and blessed.

Officiant rubs the blessed water on her forehead and say:

All your senses are blessed, protected, and awakened.

Officiant rubs the blessed water over her heart and say:

Your heart is blessed so that you may feel compassion for yourself and others.

Officiant rubs the blessed water on both her hands and say:

Your hands are blessed so that you may reach out to the world.

Officiant rubs the blessed water on both her feet and say:

Your feet are blessed so that you may connect with the earth, be grounded, and stand your ground in this world. Know that your spirit is strong and it will guide you through this life.. Know that you are deeply loved and that your presence brings overwhelming joy.

Poem

Read by Officiant :

And now I would like to share a poem special chosen by Parent Name and Parent Name , titled I can Fly (author unknown)

Some say I can fly on the wind, yet I haven't any wings.
Some have found me floating on the open sea,
yet I cannot swim.
Some have felt my warmth on cold nights,
yet I have no flame.
And though you cannot see me,
I lay between two lovers at the hearth of fireplaces.
I am the twinkle in your child's eyes.
I am hidden in the smile lines of your mother's faces
I am their shield as they guard your home.

Some say I am stronger than steel,
yet I am as fragile as a tear.
Some have never searched for me,
yet I am around them always.
Some say I die with loss, yet I am endless.
And though you cannot hear me,
I dance on the laughter of children.
I am woven into the whispers of passion.
I am in the blessings of Great Grandmothers.
I embrace the cries of newborn babies.
Some say I am a flower, yet I am also the seed.

Some have little faith in me,
yet I will always believe in them.
Some say I cannot cure the ill, yet I nourish the soul.
And though you cannot touch me,
I am the gentle hand of the kind.
I am the fingertips that caress your cheek at night.
I am the hug of a child.
I am love.”

Final Blessing

Officiant:

I congratulate Parent Name and Parent Name on the birth of their baby, and the Godparents on their willingness to share with them the care and concern for the welfare of Childs Name.

May her life be filled with the good things of life, and in particular with the love and laughter of those who make up her world.

With abiding confidence and affection, we send you forth on your journey of life. May you be filled with thanks and wonder, humor and fun, hope and perseverance so that you may grow in wisdom and grace.

~End of Ceremony~

****Note you may want to add the Shehechyanu:

In the Jewish tradition, there is a very special prayer that is said upon reaching a joyous occasion, called the Shehechyanu. The Shehechyanu is said when a baby is born, when a baby learns to walk, upon celebrating religious and educational milestones, the sacred bond of marriage, as well as important holiday celebrations.

The Shehechyanu expresses our gratitude for being able to be with the parents and celebrate their new baby

Blessed are you, creator of the universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and permitted us to celebrate this joyous occasion.”