

Baby Blessing Readings and Poems #7

Dear CHILD. Today we officially welcome you. We wish you long life and much happiness.

May you face all challenges that come to you as a person of integrity,
May you continue to bring great joy to your parents, your grandparents, family, friends,
and to all those who come to know you.

May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you,

May wonder fulfill 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, may you learn to live.

May you live to love, and may you love—always.

A WISH FOR THE CHILD

May all your wishes come true

May you always do for others, and let others do for you

May you build a ladder to the stars and climb on every rung

And may you stay forever young

May you grow to be righteous

May you grow up to be true

May you always know the truth,

and see the light that's surrounding you

May you always be courageous, stand upright and be strong

And may you stay forever young

May your hands always be busy, and may your feet always be swift

May you have a strong foundation when the winds of change shift

May your heart always be joyful, and may your song always be sung

And may you stay forever young.

A CHILD WITH LOVE

If children live with security, they learn to have faith;

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves;

If children live with love around them,

they learn to give love to the world.

SPIRIT OF THE CHILD

Give us the child who lives within – the child who trusts, the child who imagines, the child who sings, the child who receives without reservation, the child who gives without judgement.

Give us a child's eyes, that we may receive the beauty and freshness of this day like a sunrise.

Give us a child's ears, that we may hear the music of mythical times.

Give us a child's heart, that we may be filled with wonder and delight.

Give us a child's faith, that we may be cured of our cynicism.

Give us the spirit of the child, who is not afraid to need,
who is not afraid to love.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

We are glad to share the joy of these parents [PARENT] and [PARENT] With them we wonder at the miracle of life recreating itself. We promise to uphold them in the task of nurturing their child and dedicate ourselves to building a community in which the possibilities of their child's life may be fully realised. We speak their child's name [CHILD] honouring in his/her the rights and dignities of the human person.

BLESSING ENGRAVED ON ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

May you be blessed with
the strength of heaven,
the light of the sun
and the radiance of the moon,
the splendor of fire,
the speed of lightning,
the swiftness of wind,
the depth of the sea,
the stability of earth,
and the firmness of rock.

BOYS...

Boys are found everywhere – on top of, underneath, inside of, climbing on, swinging from, running around, or jumping to.

Mothers love them,
little girls hate them,
older sisters and brothers tolerate them,
adults ignore them
and Heaven protects them.

GIRLS...

Little girls are the nicest things that happen to people.
They are born with a little bit of angel shine about them,
and though it wears thin sometimes,
there is always enough left to lasso your heart -
even when they are sitting in the mud,
or crying temperamental tears,
or parading up the street in mother's best clothes.

FOR THE GIFT OF THE CHILD

For the gift of a child, [CHILD] whose innocence and laughter keep the world young, we rejoice and give thanks. May this new life, which we have accepted into our community of ideals and friendship, receive abundantly the blessings of health, love, knowledge, and wisdom, and in her/his turn give back richly to the common heritage that endures from generation to generation.

And for the gift of parenthood made to [PARENT] and [PARENT] we also give our thanks. may they and all parents everywhere give their children security and freedom and love, and may they be blessed with much joy, much laughter and much patience in the divine task of nurture.

DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD

We owe to the child the best we have to give. This is what it says in the 'Declaration of the Rights of the Child', which was adopted unanimously on 20 November 1959 by the General assembly of the United Nations.

Children have rights:

The right to equality, regardless of race, colour,
religion, sex and nationality

The right to healthy mental and physical development

The right to a name and nationality

The right to sufficient food, housing and medical care

The right to special care if handicapped

The right to love, understanding and care

The right to free education, play and recreation

The right to immediate aid in the event of disasters and emergencies

The right to protection from cruelty, neglect, and exploitation.

The right to protection from persecution and to an
upbringing in the spirit

of sisterhood/ brotherhood and peace.

Children learn what they live.

If a child lives with criticism he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame he learns to feel guilt.
BUT,
If a child lives with tolerance he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement he learns confidence.
If a child lives with fairness he learns justice.
If a child lives with security he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
He learns to find love in the world.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT YOUR CHILDREN by Kahlil Gibran

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children
as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and bends you with might that the
arrows may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the Archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as the Archer loves the arrow that flies, so the Archer also loves the bow that is
stable.

AND SO THE CHILDREN COME by Sophia Lyon Fahs

And so the children come.
And so they have been coming.
Always in the same way they come -
Born of the seed of man and woman.
No angels herald their beginning,
No prophets predict their future courses,
No wise men see a star to point their way
To find the babe that may save [hu]mankind.
Yet each night a child is born is a holy night.
Fathers and Mothers -

Sitting beside their children's cribs -
Feel glory in the wondrous sight of a life beginning.
They ask: "When or how will this new life end?
Or will it ever end?"
Each night a child is born is a holy night.

KNOW YOU WHAT IT IS TO BE A CHILD
by Francis Thompson and William Blake

Know you what it is to be a child? It is to have a spirit yet streaming from the waters of baptism; it is to believe in love, to believe in loveliness, to believe in belief; it is to be so little that the elves can reach to whisper in your ear; it is to turn pumpkins into coaches, and mice into horses, lowness into loftiness, and nothing into everything, – for each child has a fairy god-mother in his/her own soul; it is to live in a nutshell and count yourself the king/queen of infinite space; it is: To see the World in a grain of sand, And a heaven in a wild flower, Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, And eternity in an hour.

OMAHA NATIVE AMERICAN BLESSING

Sun, Moon, Stars, all you that move in the heavens, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his/her path smooth,
that he/she may reach the brow of the first hill!

Winds, Clouds, Rain, Mist, all you that move in the air, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his/her path smooth, that he/she may reach
the brow of the second hill!

Hills, Valleys, Rivers, Lakes, Trees, Grasses,
all you of the earth, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his/her path smooth, that he/she
may reach the brow of the third hill!

Birds, great and small, that fly in the air,
Animals, great and small, that dwell in the forest,
Insects that creep among the grasses and burrow
in the ground, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his/her path smooth, that he/she
may reach the brow of the fourth hill!

All you of the heavens, all you of the air,
all you of the earth, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.

Make his/her path smooth, then shall he/she
travel beyond the four hills!

TAO TE CHING

Giving birth and nourishing,
having without possessing,
acting with no expectations,
leading and not trying to control:
this is the supreme virtue.

THERE IS A SONG IN MAN by Spike Milligan

There is a song in man
There is a song in woman
And that is the child's song.
When that song comes
There will be no words.
Do not ask where they are.
Just listen to the song.
Listen to it... Learn it... It is the greatest song of all.

MAY BEAUTY DELIGHT YOU

May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you,
May wonder fulfill 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, may you learn to live.
May you live to love, and may you love—always
If children live with security, they learn to have faith;
If children live with approval,
they learn to like themselves;
If children live with love around them,
they learn to give love to the world.

Baby's Way

by Rabindranath Tagore (Hindu Poet)

If Baby only wanted to, he could fly up to heaven this moment.
It is not for nothing that he does not leave us.
He loves to rest his head on mother's bosom,
and cannot ever bare to lose sight of her.
Baby knows all manner of wise words,
though few on earth can understand their meaning.
It is not for nothing that he never wants to speak.
The one thing he wants is to learn mother's words from mother's lips.
That is why he looks so innocent.
Baby had a heap of gold and pearls,
yet he came like a beggar on to this earth.
It is not for nothing he came in such a disguise.
This dear little naked mendicant pretends to be utterly helpless,
so that he may beg for mother's wealth of love.
Baby was so free from every tie in the land of the tiny crescent moon.
It was not for nothing he gave up his freedom.
He knows that there is room for endless joy in mother's little corner of a heart,
and it is sweeter far than liberty to be caught and pressed in her dear arms.
Baby never knew how to cry.
He dwelt in the land of perfect bliss.
It is not for nothing he has chosen to shed tears.
Though with the smile of his dear face he draws mother's yearning heart to him,
yet his little cries over tiny troubles weave the double bond of pity and love.

From: Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting *by Myla and Jon Kabat-Zinn*

“When we become parents, whether intentionally or by happenstance, our whole life is immediately different, although it may take some time to realize just how much. Being a parent compounds stress by orders of magnitude. It makes us vulnerable in ways we weren't before. It calls us to be responsible in ways we weren't before. It challenges us as never before, and takes out time and attention away from other things, including ourselves, as never before. It creates chaos and disorder, feelings of inadequacy, occasions for arguments, struggles, irritation, noise, seemingly never-ending obligations and errands, and plenty of opportunities for getting stuck, angry, resentful, hurt, and for feeling overwhelmed, old, and unimportant.

And this can go on not only when the children are little, but even when they are full grown and on their own. Having children is asking for trouble.
“So why do it? Maybe Pete Seeger said it best: ‘We do it for the high wages...kisses.’
Children
give us the opportunity to share in the vibrancy of life in ways we would not touch were they not part of our lives....they share ...[their] vital nature with us and call it out of us as well, if we can listen carefully to the calling.”

“Apache Blessing”

*“May the sun bring you new energy by day,
May the moon softly restore you by night,
May the rain wash away your worries
And the breeze blow new strength into your being,
And all of the days of your life may you walk
Gently through the world and know its beauty.”*

“I Am Love”

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 lines of your mother’s face.
I am your father’s shield as he guards your home.
And yet... 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 Grandmothers.
I embrace the cries of newborn babies.
And yet... 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.”

“Ithaka”

(translation/adaptation by Sarah Ban Breathnach)

“Pray that your journey be long,
full of many summer mornings
when with much pleasure and much joy
you anchor in harbors never seen before;
Browse through Phoenician markets,
to purchase exquisite treasures-
mother-of-pearl and coral, ebony and amber
and sensual perfumes of all kinds-
as much as you desire.
Visit many Egyptian cities, content
to sit at the feet of sages, eager
and open to receive learning.
Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Your arrival there is your destiny.
But do not hurry the journey at all; be patient.
Better that it lasts for many years-
longer than you can even imagine.
So that finally, when you reach this
sacred isle, you will be wise,
abundantly fulfilled by all you have gained along the way;
no longer expecting Ithaka to make you wealthy,
no longer needing Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka has given you the journey,
the chance to discover who you have always been.
Without Ithaka as your inspiration, you
never would have set out in search of Wholeness.

And should you find her poor, Ithaka did not deceive you.
Authentic as you have become, full of wisdom,
beauty and grace, enriched and enlightened by all you have experienced
You will finally understand what all of life’s Ithakas truly mean.”

From “The Prophet”

By Kahlil Gibran

“And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said,
‘Speak to us of Children.’
And he said:
‘Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life’s longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts.
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,
and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;
For even as he loves the arrow that flies,
so He loves also the bow that is stable."

"This Bridge"

by Shel Silverstein

"This bridge will only take you halfway there
To those mysterious lands you long to see:
Through gypsy camps and swirling Arab fairs
And moonlit woods where unicorns run free.
So come and stay awhile with me and share
The twisting trails and wondrous worlds I've known.
But this bridge will only take you halfway there –
The last few steps you'll have to take alone."

Every Person Born into This World

From a passage by Martin Buber (adaptation)

Every person born into this world represents something new, something that never existed before, something original and unique. It is the duty of every person in Israel to know and consider that he is unique in the world in his particular character, and that there has never been someone like him before. For if there had been someone like him before, there would be no need for him to be in the world. Every single person is a new thing in the world and is called upon to fulfill his particularity in the world.

Children Learn What They Live by Dorothy Law Nolte
Children learn what they live.

If a child lives with criticism, she learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, she learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilt.
If a child lives with tolerance, she learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise, she learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
If a child lives with security, she learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance, he or she learns to find love in the world.

Untitled

Excerpts from Francis Thompson and William Blake

Know you what it is to be a child? ... It is to have a spirit yet streaming from the waters of baptism; it is to believe in love, to believe in loveliness, to believe in belief; it is to be so little that the elves can reach to whisper in your ear; it is to turn pumpkins into coaches, and mice into horses, lowness into loftiness, and nothing into everything, – for each child has a fairy god-mother in his/her own soul; it is to live in a nutshell and count yourself the king/queen of infinite space; it is:
To see the World in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.

Omaha Native American Children's Blessing

Sun, Moon, Stars, all you that move in the heavens, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his path smooth, that he may reach the brow of the first hill!

Winds, Clouds, Rain, Mist, all you that move in the air, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his path smooth, that he may reach the brow of the second hill!

Hills, Valleys, Rivers, Lakes, Trees, Grasses, all you of the earth, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his path smooth, that he may reach the brow of the third hill!

Birds, great and small, that fly in the air,
Animals, great and small, that dwell in the forest,
Insects that creep among the grasses and burrow in the ground, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his path smooth, that he may reach the brow of the fourth hill!

All you of the heavens, all you of the air, all you of the earth, hear us!
Into your midst has come a new life.
Make his path smooth, then shall he travel beyond the four hills!

Understanding the meaning of the Medicine Wheel depends on the concept that a person's life consists of conquering the four hills: Infancy, Youth, Maturity and Old Age. The four stages are celebrated in ritual as the four prime moments in life corresponding to the four directions.

The first hill is the South (innocence and trust) where the infant's reception into life occurs. The second hill, that of introspection, in the West, becomes the youth's solitary vigil and quest for vision. This first quest seeks the revelation of the Great Spirit's manifestation and continuing presence.

This is the time when a power animal attribute enters a Native individual's soul becoming a part of his or her name. (Sitting Bull, Black Elk, Crazy Horse and so on). It marks the beginning of the dweller within, the dreaming soul that contacts the higher spiritual planes bringing back visions that serve as fundamental guide posts in life. The hill of maturity lies to the North and represents the successful realization of ability and ambition. It is the place of recognition in which the pursuit of wisdom underlies and nourishes all action.

Sympathy with life itself grows in this quarter.

The final hill is that of old age situated in the East. It represents a quiet, reflective and meditative segment where the old ones now can pass on their knowledge to youth as they have mastered the meaning of joy and sorrow and the many other trials and tribulations

encountered
over the course of their existence.

There Is A Song

by Spike Milligan

*There is a song in man
There is a song in woman
And that is the child's song.
When that song comes
There will be no words.
Do not ask where they are.
Just listen to the song.
Listen to it-
Learn it-
It is the greatest song of all*

Jewish Blessing

*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.'*

Irish Baby Blessing

*May all the blessings of our Lord touch your life today.
May He send His little angels to protect you on your way.
Such a miraculous gift, sent from above.
Someone so precious to cherish and love.
May sunshine and moonbeams dance over your head.
As you quietly slumber in your bed.
May good luck be with you wherever you go.
And your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow.*

An Adoption Poem

*Not flesh of my flesh,
nor bone of my bone
but very remarkably,
all my own.
And never forget,
for a single minute,
that you weren't born
under my heart,
but in it.*

From the Tao Te Ching

*Giving birth and nourishing,
having without possessing,
acting with no expectations,
leading and not trying to control:
this is the supreme virtue.*

RELIGIOUS READING FOR A BABY BLESSING

PRAYER CELEBRATING LIFE

For the gift of a child, [NAME] whose innocence and laughter keep the world young, we rejoice and give thanks. May this new life, which we have accepted into our community of ideals and friendship, receive abundantly the blessings of health, love, knowledge, and wisdom, and in her/his turn give back richly to the common heritage that endures from generation to generation. And for the gift of parenthood made to [PARENT] and [PARENT] we also give our thanks. May they and all parents everywhere give their children security, freedom and love, and may they be blessed with much joy, much laughter and much patience in the divine task of nurture. Amen

PRAYER OF SPIRIT

Give us the spirit of the child.
Give us the child who lives within—the child who trusts, the child who imagines, the child who sings, the child who receives without reservation, the child who gives without judgement.
Give us a child's eyes, that we may receive the beauty and freshness of this day like a sunrise.
Give us a child's ears, that we may hear the music of mythical times.
Give us a child's heart, that we may be filled with wonder and delight.

Give us a child's faith, that we may be cured of our cynicism.
Give us the spirit of the child, who is not afraid to need, who is not afraid to love. Amen.

PRAYER OF JOY

We are glad to share the joy of these parents [PARENT] and [PARENT]. With them we wonder at the miracle of life recreating itself. We promise to uphold them in the task of nurturing their child and dedicate ourselves to building a community in which the possibilities of their child's life may be fully realized. We speak their child's name [CHILD] honoring in him/her the rights and dignities of the human person.

PRAYER OF HOPE

With all our hopes and dreams for your future, we celebrate your being. May you always feel the love that surrounds you. May your days be filled with wonder and your nights be gentle. May your years on this earth be blessed with strength, health and wisdom. May the love you are be the power forever guiding your light on this earth. May God bless and keep you. And may your days be good and long upon this earth.

PRAYER OF GRACE

Heavenly Father, we praise you for this child's birth—surround him/her with your blessings that he/she may know your love, be protected from evil, and know your goodness all his/her days. May he/she learn to love all that is true, grow in wisdom and strength and, come through faith to the fullness of your Grace.

May God the Father of all bless these parents and godparents and give them grace to love and care for their child. May God give them wisdom, patience and faith, and help them to provide for this beloved child's needs.

Eternal Father, we thank you for the rich variety of the families you have created for us, and for the relationships which we see and enjoy within them. Help us to respect and learn from each other. We thank you too for love that binds the families that are here today, and ask your blessing on them.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home, bless the home of this child, may it provide shelter, warmth and security to the family and to all those who visit.

All this we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER OF PROTECTION

Blessings on you, Child of God, Child of the Universe. May you be wrapped in care and protected from all harm. May all that touches you be tender and kind. May stars dazzle your eyes and rainbows delight your heart. May affirming words and glances encourage

the goodness that is you. May you have fun exploring the world and discovering hidden treasures....

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever.
Amen

GOSPEL READING – MARK 10:13-15

They brought children for Jesus to touch. The disciples rebuked them, but when Jesus saw them he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." And he put his arms round them, and blessed them.

GOSPEL READING – JOHN 3: 1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future
has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

IRISH BABY BLESSING

May all the blessing of our Lord touch your life today.
May He send His little angels to protect you on your way.
Such a wee little fit, sent from above.
Someone so precious to cherish and love.

May sunshine and moonbeams dance over you head.
As you quietly slumber in your bed.
May good luck be with you wherever you go.
And your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow.

RAINBOW BLESSING

May God give you...
For every storm, a rainbow
For every tear, a smile
For every care, a promise
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song
And an answer for every prayer.
God Bless, you CHILD.

BLESSING OF STRENGTH

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Remember O God your child [CHILD] that as this child grows in knowledge of your truth, may he/she be led to acknowledge your truth in they life.

And continue to bless O Lord the parents of this child, that they may be strengthened to keep the promises they have made, and so to live that their child may see in them what it is to live a good and sound life. Continue to bless all in this home and any who enter.
Amen

BLESSING OF GRACE

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

BLESSING OF GLORY

And now, to Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before Him; to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

BLESSING OF TRUTH

Remember, O God, your child [CHILD] that as he/she grows in knowledge of your truth, he/she may be led to acknowledge your truth in his life. And continue to bless O Lord, the parents of this child, that they may be strengthened to keep the promises they have made, and so to live that [CHILD] may see in them what it is to live a good and sound life. Continue to bless all in this home and any who enter in. May their lives be full of peace and joy. Amen

BLESSING OF THE JOY AND PEACE

O God, our heavenly Father, grant that this child, as he/she grows in years, may also grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that by the restraining and renewing influence of the Holy Spirit he/she may ever be a true child of thine, serving thee faithfully all of his/her days.

So guide and uphold the parents of this child that by giving care, wise counsel, and holy example, they may lead him/her into that life of faith whose strength is righteousness and whose fruit is everlasting joy and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING OF PERFECT LOVE

May the God of All Creation who formed you beneath your Mother's heart, smile on you this Holy Day of Baptism. Living Waters baptize you at the Font of New Life and anoint you with the grace of Jesus. May all who watch over you be blessed with Awe and they behold the perfect gift of Love that you are. May the Light of Christ guide you always in the path of Truth as you grow in Wisdom, Grace and Love

CLOSING BLESSING by Tyron Edwards

Honor thy parents, those that gave thee birth, and watched in tenderness thine earliest days, and trained thee up in youth, and loved in all. Honor, obey and love them; it shall fill their souls with holy joy, and shall bring down God's richest blessing on thee; and in days to come, thy children, if they're given, shall honor thee, and fill thy life with peace.

CLOSING BENEDICTION

Blessed are you, our God, ruler of the universe, maker of heaven and earth, keeper of sky and sea. In your goodness you give us the sign of water. At the beginning your spirit was at work, brooding over the waters of creation's birth, breaking the water with the word of power, bringing forth life in all its fullness.

Over and over again you have shown your grace to us as water cleansing the earth at the flood , parting for the exodus at the Red Sea, flowing from the rock in the wilderness. In Jesus you promised that all who thirst could come to the living water.

Therefore, eternal and present God, We bless you for the water with which you bless us.
We pray that those who are given to the waters of life
Will live in your grace.

Send, O God, your Holy spirit upon us and upon this holy water, that all who are gathered under this sign, being one in Christ, may be nurtured By the bread of life.
Now to God be given all glory, praise, honor And might.
Blessed be God forever. Amen

RELIGIOUS POEM by Carter Hayward

In the beginning was God,
In the beginning the source of all that is,
In the beginning God yearning, God moaning,
God labouring, God giving birth, God rejoicing.
And God loved what she had made, and God said,
“It is good”. And God knowing that all that is good is shared, held the earth tenderly in her arms.
God yearned for relationship. God longed to share the good earth.
And humanity was born to share the earth.

RELIGIOUS POEM by Sophia Lyon Fahs

And so the children come.
And so they have been coming.
Always in the same way they come -
Born of the seed of man and woman.
No angels herald their beginning,
No prophets predict their future courses,
No wise men see a star to point their way
To find the babe that may save [hu]mankind.
Yet each night a child is born is a holy night.
Fathers and Mothers -
Sitting beside their children’s cribs -
Feel glory in the wondrous sight of a life beginning.
They ask: “When or how will this new life end?
Or will it ever end?”
Each night a child is born is a holy night.

Biblical Readings for Christenings

Num 8:11 *And you shall bring the Levites before the tabernacle of the congregation. And you shall gather the whole assembly of the sons of Israel together. And you shall bring the Levites before Jehovah. And the sons of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites. And Aaron shall offer the Levites before Jehovah for an offering of the sons of Israel, so that they may do the service of Jehovah.*

Act 6:3-6 Therefore, brothers, look out among you seven men being witnessed to, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this duty. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. And the saying pleased all the multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte of Antioch. They set these before the apostles. And having prayed, they laid hands on them.

1Ti 4:14-16 Do not neglect the gift in you, which was given you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the body of elders. Meditate on these things; be in these things in order that your improvement may appear to all. Hold on to yourself and to the doctrine; continue in them, for doing this you shall both save yourself and those who hear you.

1Ti 5:21-22 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that you guard these things without prejudice, doing nothing by partiality. Do not lay hands quickly on anyone, neither be partaker of the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

2Ti 1:3-6 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, so that I may be filled with joy, taking recollection of the unfeigned faith

that is in you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice.
And I
am persuaded that it is in you also. Therefore I remind you to inflame anew the gift of
God,
which is in you by the putting on of my hands.

Gen 48:8-16 And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, Who are these? And Joseph said
to his
father, They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place. And he said, Please
bring
them to me, and I will bless them. And the eyes of Israel were dim for age; he could not
see.
And he brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. And Israel said
to
Joseph, I had not thought I would see your face, and, lo, God has showed me also your
seed.
And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed his face to the earth.
And
Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left, and Manasseh in
his left
toward Israel's right hand. And he brought them near to him. And Israel stretched out his
right
hand, and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left on Manasseh's
head,
crossing his hands. For Manasseh was the first-born. And he blessed Joseph and said,
May
God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who fed me all my
life to
this day, the Angel who redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads. And let my name be
named
on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and let them grow like the
fishes into
a multitude in the midst of the earth.

Mat 19:13-15 Then little children were brought to Him, that He should put His hands on
them
and pray. And the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Allow the little children to
come to
Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven. And He laid His
hands on
them, and departed from there.

Mar 10:13-16 And they brought children to Him, so that He should touch them. And His
disciples rebuked those bringing them. But when Jesus saw, He was much displeased and
said
to them, Allow the little children to come to Me and do not hinder them. For of such is

the
kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, Whoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a
little
child, he shall not enter into it. And taking them up in His arms, He put His hands on
them and
blessed them.

1 Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the
unbelieving
wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

ADOPTION WELCOMING and BABY BLESSING

We have been blessed with the precious gift of this child. After so much waiting and wishing, we are filled with wonder and gratitude as we call you our daughter/son. Our daughter/son, our child, you have grown to life apart from us. But now we hold you close to our hearts and cradle you in our arms with our love. We welcome you into the circle of our family and embrace you with the beauty of a rich tradition.

We pledge ourselves to the creation of a loving home and to a life of compassion for others, hoping that you will grow to cherish and emulate these ideals.

God of new beginnings, teach us to be mother and father, worthy of this sacred trust of life. May our daughter/son grow in health. May s/he be strong in mind and kind in heart, a lover of Torah, a seeker of peace. Bless all of us together beneath your shelter of shalom (peace), and grant our new family, always, the harmony and love we feel today.

AN ADOPTION POEM

Not flesh of my flesh,
nor bone of my bone
but very remarkably,
all my own.
And never forget,
for a single minute,
that you weren't born
under my heart,
but in it.

IRISH BABY BLESSING

May all the blessing of our Lord touch your life today.
May He send His little angels to protect you on your way.
Such a wee little fit, sent from above.

Someone so precious to cherish and love.
May sunshine and moonbeams dance over you head.
As you quietly slumber in your bed.
May good luck be with you wherever you go.
And your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow.

BABY'S WAY by Hindu Poet Rabindranath Tagore

If Baby only wanted to, he could fly up to heaven this moment.
It is not for nothing that he does not leave us.
He loves to rest his head on mother's bosom, and cannot ever
bear to lose sight of her.
Baby knows all manner of wise words, though few on earth can
understand their meaning.
It is not for nothing that he never wants to speak.
The one thing he wants is to learn mother's words from
mother's lips. That is why he looks so innocent.
Baby had a heap of gold and pearls, yet he came like a beggar
on to this earth.
It is not for nothing he came in such a disguise.
This dear little naked mendicant pretends to be utterly
helpless, so that he may beg for mother's wealth of love.
Baby was so free from every tie in the land of the tiny
crescent moon.
It was not for nothing he gave up his freedom.
He knows that there is room for endless joy in mother's little
corner of a heart, and it is sweeter far than liberty to be caught
and pressed in her dear arms.
Baby never knew how to cry. He dwelt in the land of perfect
bliss.
It is not for nothing he has chosen to shed tears.
Though with the smile of his dear face he draws mother's
yearning heart to him, yet his little cries over tiny troubles
weave the double bond of pity and love.

CATHOLIC PARENTS BLESSING

“May the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, bless you, my child, for time and eternity, and may this blessing remain forever with you. Amen.”

JEWISH PARENTS BLESSING

Blessing for son: May God bless you as He blessed the sons of Joseph –Ephraim and Manasseh.

Blessing for daughters: May God bless you as He blessed Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.

Blessing for all children: “The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace.” –Numbers 6:24-26

JEWISH PRAYER FOR FIRST-BORN DAUGHTER

Our God and God of our ancestors, our Rock and our Redeemer, with gratitude for the gift of life we pray that our firstborn grow to accept joyfully her share in the tradition of our people. Bless her, Adonai, with health and full years, with happiness and moral strength. Bless us with understanding and wisdom, so that we may truly share in the creation of a life guided by Torah. May our firstborn daughter find favor before You, Adonai, and in the sight of all people. And let us say: Amen.

GODPARENTS BLESSING

I bless this baby to be filled with my unending love. From the center of my heart, I will nurture, guide and teach this child and wish the best upon this new innocent soul.

GRANDPARENTS BLESSING

May you live to see your world fulfilled. May your destiny be for worlds still to come. And may you trust in generations past and yet to be. May your heart be filled with intuition and your words be filled with insight. May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue and your vision be on a straight path before you. May your eyes shine with the light of holy words and your face reflect the brightness of the heavens. May your lips speak wisdom and your fulfillment be in righteousness even as you ever yearn to hear the words of the Divine.

GODPARENTS / GRANDPARENTS VOWS

Do you, _____ and _____, vow and promise to take as your spiritual child, _____, to nurture and protect, love and strengthen, keep from harms way and help to guide in goodness this new soul on earth?

A SINGLE PARENT’S PRAYER – Author Unknown

Lord, grant me
Time enough
to do all the chores, join in the games, help with the lessons, and say the night prayers,
and still have a few moments left over for me.
Energy enough
to be bread-baker and breadwinner, knee-patcher and peacemaker, ballplayer and bill juggler.

Hands enough
to wipe away the tears, to reach out when I'm needed, to hug and to hold, to tickle and touch.

Heart enough
to share and to care, to listen and to understand, and to make a loving home for my family.

BLESSED BE by Raffi

Creator of all things
To you we offer inexpressible thanks
For this, our greatest blessing
And our greatest joy

Keep watch over this little one
And provide, in all who love her
An example worthy
Of your love for us

Help us to spread before her
A canvas of support and care
That one day she may paint upon it
A future only she can dream

Help us to be
The people we strive to be
And help us to see your face
In the Gaia*
In each other,
And in all things

Blessed be!

* You can substitute "God", "Adonai" or "The Divine*" if that is more acceptable to your tradition.