

Baby Blessing #7

Sample Baby Protection, Blessing, and Welcoming Ceremony

Soft Spiritual music is playing in the background as the guests enter the room. The grandparents, the parents (who are holding their beautiful new baby) and the minister are standing by the altar, which is in the middle of the room. The altar is covered with a beautiful cloth and has a small bowl with blessed water (which is blessed in a ritual before the ceremony) with rose petals in it. It also has a bouquet of flowers, maybe some objects that are meaningful (maybe a collage of baby pictures of present and past family members, etc) and five white candles.

Welcoming

Dear Friends and Family, Good afternoon. Today is a very special day for all of us. It is a day in which we celebrate the birth of this child _____ who has been sent to us by God. This child is a piece of God that was given to the earth to make this world a little better, a little more interesting. This child is our future and represents the light of the world. _____ & _____ 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.

Invocation

Everyone:

Mother/Father God, Divine Parent, we ask for Your Blessing here today. Protect our family and community and surround us with Your infinite unconditional love. Keep us mindful that the miracle of incarnation is both a gift and path back to you. We ask that our sense of community be strengthened by what we are about to witness here today. Amen.

Minister:

Our lives are the legacies of those who have gone before us. The ancestors of this child are no less a part of her community than we here who are present. She/He is the fulfillment of the dreams of many generations. Therefore, I call upon all of _____'s ancestors to be with us now to participate in this protection, blessing and welcoming ceremony of _____.



The Blessing of the Child

(I will address the new baby and I will use the blessed water with roses to bless the top of her/his head, her/his forehead, her/his heart, both her/his hands and both her/his feet)

I rub the blessed water on the top of her/his head and say:

You are connected, protected, loved, and blessed by the Divine.

I rub the blessed water on her/his forehead and say:

All your senses are blessed, protected, and awakened.

I rub the blessed water over her heart and say:

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

I rub the blessed water on both her/his hands and say:

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

I rub the blessed water on both her/his 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 have angels to watch over you and that you are never alone. Know that you are deeply loved and that your presence brings overwhelming joy.

Poem: *(Read by a grandparent or Godparent)*

Speak to Us of Children (by Kahil 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 can not visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterdays.
You are bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.
The archer seeks the mark upon the path of the infinite,
And he bends you with His might that His arrow may go swift and far.
Let your blending in the archer's hand be for goodness.
For even as He loves the arrow that flies,
So He loves the bow that is stable.

Sample Reading

A baby was created by the hand of God Above, to give the world the sweetest touch of tenderness and love.

With the softest whisper God made baby's skin, then designed two trusting eyes to put starlight in.

With giggles from a waterfall and breezes passing by, God made a baby's laughter and a tiny, sleepy sigh.

God made the world a precious gift more dear and pure than gold, With little toes to play with and tiny hands to hold.

He sent this brand new person on moonlight's reflection gleam, All wrapped up in a rainbow of wonder, hope, and dreams.



The Promise

Said to the Parents:

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

_____ & _____, will you promise to love, nurture, and support _____, and to create a healthy environment so that she/her may grow on his/her specific path? If so, please answer **“We will.”**

Please light the first candle.

While the parents are lighting the first candle, I say:

Let the lighting of this candle be an affirmation of this promise.
Let the lighting of this candle also symbolize the light of love.

_____ & _____, please repeat after me

You are the warmth of this candle. You were created in love and You are love itself.

To Grandparents (and great grandparents if they are present)

Grandma & Grandpa _____ & Grandma and Grandpa _____, will you promise to support _____? Will you promise to play with her/him, make funny faces and noises to make her/him smile, give away lots of pictures of him/her to your friends, spoil him/her to the best of your ability and share with her/him your wisdom and the memories of her/him ancestors? If so, please answer **“We will”**.

Grandma & Grandpa _____, please light the second candle
Grandma & Grandpa _____, please light the third candle

While the grandparents are lighting the candles, I say:

Let the lighting of these candles be an affirmation of that promise.
Let the lighting of these candles also symbolize the light of truth.

Grandparents, please repeat after me:

Let this light awaken you to truth, and help you remember, the Divine light you are.

To Godparents

_____ & _____, will you support _____ on his/her spiritual path, as well as, all other paths in her/his life? Will you promise to support the parents and grandparents to fulfill their sacred promise? If so, please answer, **“We will”**.

Godmother _____, please light the fourth candle.
Godfather _____, please light the fifth candle.

While the Godparents are lighting the candles, I say:

Let the lighting of these candles be an affirmation of that promise.
Let the lighting of this candle also represent the light of protection.

Godparents, please repeat after me:

Let the light of these candles help you see through illusion. You are this light.

Minister:

Therefore, let your light shine though the darkness. Remember that light can penetrate darkness, however, darkness can never penetrate light.

We will it so, so it is.



Welcoming by the Family

Everyone:

In the presence of God, we welcome you, _____, into our family and into our community. We honor your path and make way for your gifts.

Minister:

As a community and more importantly, as a family, we have just made a sacred pledge to take responsibility for the development of this child. She/he is a part of this family now, and as a family, it is important that you honor, protect, and love each other.

Poem: *(Read by a family member of friend)*

Charge to the Child (by Joy Harjo)

Remember the sky that you were born under,
Know each of the stars stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is.
Remember the sun's birth at dawn that is the
Strongest point of time. Remember sundown
And the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
To give you form and breathe. You are evidence of
Her life, and her mother's and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:

Red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
Brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
Tribes, their families, their histories too. Talk to them,
Listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice.
She knows the origin of this universe.
And that this universe is you.
Remember that all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember that language comes from this.
Remember the dance that language is, that life is.
Remember.

Prayer of Gratitude:

Let us pray:

Mother Father Divine, thank you for bringing _____ into this world, into our lives. Thank you for blessing this child and blessing us all with your presence here today. Thank you for bringing this family together to welcome _____ to our community in love. Help us to live in your light and integrity everyday, so that we may be good role models for _____ and all our children. Watch over us so that we may all get home safely today. Amen

Thank you, _____'s ancestors for being with us today to bless this child, protect this child and welcome her/him to this family. Let the memory of this day fill us with love and family.

Benediction:

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.

May God's blessings rest upon you, may His peace abide with you, and may Her presence illuminate your hearts now and forever more. Go in peace.