

DEDICATION *for the*
BIRTH *of A* CHILD

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*.

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

Address the mother:

N., as it has pleased Almighty God, of his goodness, to give you a safe delivery, and to preserve you in the trials of childbirth, let us give thanks to God: Almighty God, we give you humble thanks for graciously preserving, through the pain and peril of childbirth, your servant

N., who now desires to offer her praises and thanksgivings to you. Grant, we ask you, most merciful Father, that she, with your help, may faithfully live according to your will in this life, and may also partake in the everlasting glory of the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PLEDGE

Minister: In the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses do you solemnly undertake to bring up this child in the fear and admonition of the Lord, that you will instruct N., in the teaching of the Bible and the church?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Do you promise to lead N., early to accept Christ as *his* personal Savior and Lord?

Parents: We do.

Minister: Do you promise to lead N., at an age of understanding to participate in the Sacrament of Christian baptism; through Jesus Christ our Lord?

Parents: We do.

Address the godparents:

You have agreed to accept the spiritual responsibility of being godparents to this Child here to be dedicated; you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will receive N., to give him the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. You have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his Gospel, to grant all these things that you have prayed for: which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform. Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, this child must also faithfully, for his/her part accept Christ as his personal Savior and Lord.

THE PLEDGE

Minister: Alongside your godchild's parents, will you give your time to your godchild to talk to about the bigger questions of life – questions about hope, faith and love?

Godparents: We will.

Minister: Will you pray for your godchild through the ups and downs of their life and their faith journey.

Godparents: We will.

Minister: Will you help your godchild to learn more about the Christian faith, through their church and in other ways?

Godparents: We will.

PRAYER FOR THE CHILD

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. O eternal God, you have promised to be a father to a thousand generations of those who love and fear you: Bless this child and preserve *his* life; receive *him* and enable *him* to receive you, that through your grace *he* may become the child of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

PRAYER FOR A SIBLING

Heavenly Father, your Son our Savior took young children into his arms and blessed them: Strengthen N. to be a wholesome and godly example, a companion, and an encourager to his new brother. Keep them from strife and discord, and when they hurt one another, give them your grace readily to forgive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE GODPARENTS

O God we give thanks for the role of the Godparents in this child's life. Today they have made promises to encourage their godchild to grow in faith and commit to helping them understand how to live their life in a Christian way. Empower them to be a model and example of Christian life through Jesus Christ or Lord. Amen.

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

After the prayers, the minister's wife may present the mother with a white rose for the child as a symbol of purity. The father is presented with a dedicatory certificate as a reminder of the couples pledge before God.