

# Order for the Blessing of a Mother Before Childbirth

This blessing is preferably offered by a priest or deacon but in absence of that, may also be offered by a lay person. This blessing is included in the Book of Blessings most priests have. This download is offered by Made for This Birth to make it even easier for parents to access by bringing it right to them or using it as a lay person..

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

When the family or a community of the faithful has gathered, the minister says:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

All make the sign of the cross and reply: **Amen.**

A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture. **May Christ, who became one of us in the womb of the Virgin Mary, be with you all.**

All make the following or some other suitable reply. **And also with you.**

A lay minister greets those present in the following words. **Brothers and sisters, let us bless the Lord Jesus, who in the womb of the Virgin Mary became one of us. Blessed be God now and for ever.**

**R. Blessed be God now and for ever. Or: R. Amen.**

In the following or similar words, the minister prepares the mother and all present for the blessing.

**God, the Lord of Life, by His will brings every human being into existence and He rules and sustains the life of every one of us. Our faith tells us of God's particular care over those born of a Christian marriage, since through the sacrament of baptism they will receive the gift of sharing in the divine life itself. The reason for the blessing of a mother-to-be is that she may await her hour of delivery in faith and hope and, as the partner of God's own love, may already cherish with her maternal love the child in her womb.**

## READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

**Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke:**

"During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:39-45)

(Or: Luke 1:26-38--You shall conceive and bear a son. Luke 2:1-14--She gave birth to her firstborn son.)

As circumstances suggest, the following responsorial psalm may be sung or said, or some other suitable song.

**R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

**Psalm 33 Happy the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has chosen for His own inheritance. But see, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear Him, upon those who hope for His kindness. R.**

**Our soul waits for the LORD, who is our help and our shield, For in Him our hearts rejoice; in His holy name we trust. R.**

**May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us who have put our hope in You. R.**

As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.

## INTERCESSIONS

The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following intentions those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the mother and the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says: **Christ the Lord, the blessed fruit of Mary's womb, by the mystery of His Incarnation filled the world with His grace and goodness. Let us therefore raise our voices to praise Him.**

**R. Blessed are You, O Lord, for Your loving kindness. Or: R. Blessed be God for ever.**

Assistant: **You were born of a woman, so that we might become God's adopted children. (Let us bless the Lord:) R.**

Asst: **You took life from Mary and willed that the womb that bore You and the breasts that nursed You would be called blessed. (Let us bless the Lord:) R.**

Asst: **Through the Virgin Mary, blessed among women, You have honored the female sex. (Let us bless the Lord:) R.**

Asst: **As You hung on the cross You made Mary, Your own Mother, the Mother of the Church. (Let us bless the Lord:) R.**

Asst: **Through the ministry of mothers You increase the joy and exultation of the Church by enriching it with new children. (Let us bless the Lord:) R.**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

A minister who is a priest or deacon may, as circumstances suggest, extend his hands over the mother or traces the sign of the cross on her forehead, as he says the prayer of blessing; A lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

**Lord God, Creator of the human race, Your Son, through the working of the Holy Spirit, was born of a woman, so that He might pay the age-old debt of sin and save us by His redemption. Receive with kindness the prayer of your servant as she asks for the birth of a healthy child. Grant that she may safely deliver a son or a daughter to be numbered among Your family, to serve you in all things, and to gain eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.**

After the prayer of blessing, the minister invites all present to pray for the protection of the Blessed Virgin. They may do so by singing or reciting the following antiphon, or other Marian prayers (ex. Alma Redemptoris Mater, Hail Mary, or Hail, Holy Queen).

**We fly to you for protection, holy Mother of God. Listen to our prayers and help us in our needs. Save us from every danger, glorious and Blessed Virgin.**

## CONCLUDING RITE

After the invitation, "**Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing,**" or something similar is said, a minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by facing the mother and saying:

**May God, the source of all life, protect you by His goodness. R. Amen.**

**May He deepen your faith, build up your hope, and constantly increase the gift of His love in you. R. Amen.**

**At the hour of your delivery may He be attentive to your prayers and strengthen you with His grace. R. Amen.**

Then he blesses all present. **And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.**

A lay minister invokes God's blessing on the mother and all present by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying: **May God, who chose to make known and to send the blessings of eternal salvation through the motherhood of the Blessed Virgin, bless us and keep us in His care, now and for ever. R. Amen.**