

# Entrustment Ceremony



# For An Adopted Child

Adapted from Diocese of Covington Catholic Social Services

## Notes on Using the Prayer Service

The services in this collection were designed for a variety of settings, and we encourage you to adapt them to your particular needs. The role of the leader can be shared by one or more persons. Some advance preparation such as handouts or candles may be required. Suggested hymns are widely available.

## GATHERING PRAYER

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

**Response:** Amen.

**Leader:**

We welcome each one of you here today. We have come here together to join in celebration of (**name**)'s life and those who are a part of it.

(**Name**) was brought into this world by the holy and generous love of (his, her) birth mother, (name). We are here today because of her courage and unselfishness.

(**Name**) has been lovingly cared for by (his, her) foster parents, (name) and (name). We know theirs is a home filled with joy and the Spirit of Peace.

(**Name**) is the answer to the prayers and longing of (his, her) adoptive parents, (name of father) and (name of mother), who will happily and lovingly receive (him, her) into their home.

For (**name**) we have gathered to celebrate our shared inheritance as adopted children of God. We ask your blessing on (him, her).

May (he, she) grow in wisdom and grace over the years to come. May (he, she) discover the special place the Lord has made for (him, her) in this world. And may (he, she) echo the love that today surrounds (him, her), growing up to be a (man, woman) of honor, peace, and love.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Response:** Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

**First Reading:** (Num 6:24–26) A reading from the book of Numbers.

The LORD bless you and keep you!  
The LORD let his face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you!  
The LORD look upon you kindly and  
give you peace!

The word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Pause** for silent reflection.

**Gospel Reading:** (Mark 10:13–16) A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

**Pause** for silent reflection.

**BLESSINGS** [Foster parents hold the child during the following blessings.]

### **Blessing of Birth Mother**

**Leader:** O God, we ask your blessing upon (child)'s birth mother, (name). We thank you for giving her the courage and love to bear (him, her) and give (him, her) life. We ask that she may find comfort and peace in the selfless decision she has made. May she always keep a special place in her heart for her blessed child.

Response: Amen.

### **Blessing of Foster Parents**

**Leader:** O God, we ask your blessing upon (child)'s foster parents, (name) and (name). We thank them for accepting this vocation to be a holy family, to offer kindness, protection, and loving care. Their home has been a safe haven. Their nurturing has given (child) a wonderful start in life. We ask that your blessings may shower down upon them, Lord, abundantly.

**Response:** Amen.

### **Entrustment of Child to Adoptive Parents**

**Leader:** (Birth mother), do you accept (father) and (mother) as the new parents of (child)?

Birth Mother: I do.

**Leader:** (Adoptive father) and (mother), do you desire to take (child) as your own (son, daughter)?

Adoptive Parents: We do.

**Leader:** Do you promise that you will be to (child) a loving mother and father in every way?

Adoptive Parents: We do. We will hold (him, her) when (he, she) is happy. We will console (him, her) when (he, she) is sad. We will guide (him, her) to be the best person (he, she) can be. We will educate (him, her) to know and love the Lord and his commands.

**Leader:** Receive (child) with God's blessing.

### **Child is handed to the adoptive parents**

### **Blessing of Adoptive Parents**

**Leader:** O God, bless these parents as you blessed Mary and Joseph in the temple. Help them nurture this life which has been entrusted to their care. Give them the patience and wisdom all parents need. Direct their words as they explain to (name) that (he, she) is theirs by adoption, just as we all have been adopted by you. Look with mercy upon this couple, and strengthen their mutual love as they open their home and hearts and lives to (name). May (he, she) know security and stability in their home.

### **PRAYERS**

**Leader:** Let us dedicate ourselves to the great mother of God, Mary most holy. We pray:

**Response:** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**Leader:** Remembering that we are all God's children by adoption, let us pray to our Father.

**Response:** 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. Amen.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Leader:** Loving God, your Son has taught us that to welcome a little one in his name is to welcome him. We give you thanks for (birth mother), who brought (child) into this world, and for (foster name) and (name), who welcomed (him, her) into their home. We ask you to bless this new family, (adoptive father), (mother), and (child). Make them a holy family. May (adoptive father) and (mother) show the love of Christ as they bring up (child) to love all that is good.

All this we ask through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Response:** Amen.

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