



Diocese of Richmond

Office of Christian Formation

Office of Worship

November 7, 2019

Dear Pastors and Catechetical Leaders,

At appropriate milestones in the lives of our communities, we recognize, strengthen, and celebrate our parishioners with ritual blessings in the context of Sunday liturgy. For example, your particular parish may have the custom of a blessing on Mother's Day, Father's Day, Veterans Day, or Catechetical Sunday.

In a similar vein, we are providing several options for developing a new custom of blessing godparents, recognizing their lifelong gift of witness and mentorship to the church, and encouraging them in their evangelizing work. These blessings can be a moment of rededication and commitment for them in their roles.

Should your community choose to develop this optional practice, the following liturgical moments may be appropriate for such a blessing:

- Feast of the Holy Family
- Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
- Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Catechetical Sunday

We hope that you find these blessings helpful as a way to support the continued outpouring of the Spirit's gifts in your community.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either the Office of Christian Formation or the Office of Worship.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Sean M. Prince
Director, Office of Worship

Mrs. Emily Filippi
Director, Office of Christian Formation

BLESSING OF GODPARENTS: Option 1

Following the prayer after communion, this special blessing for godparents may be offered as recognition of their critical role in forming their child(ren) in faith. This godparent blessing follows the order for the blessing and commissioning of catechists, as provided by the USCCB.

INTRODUCTION

Presider: For the pastoral activity of the Church to flourish, the cooperation of a great many people is needed, so that communities and individuals may advance to full maturity in faith, and continually show forth their faith, through the celebration of the liturgy, and through their manner of life.

BLESSING OF GODPARENTS

Presider: Will those who are godparents, please stand.

All of the godparents in the assembly stand.

BLESSING OF GODPARENTS: Option 1

Once the godparents are standing, the presider continues:

Presider: Let us pray.

Pause

God our Father, let your peace rest in the hearts of these godparents. Give them strength and compassion, as they care for their godchildren. Show these servants of yours, and the mothers and fathers of the children, how to raise your beloved ones with patience and tenderness. Give these godparents courage during times of great difficulty; help them to recognize the little joys that fill each day; and let them always grow in wisdom, understanding, and grace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

If desirable, the assembly may signify its support by applause, an acclamation, or an appropriate hymn.

The presider then continues with the final blessing and dismissal.

BLESSING OF GODPARENTS: Option 2

Following the prayer after communion, this special blessing for godparents may be offered as recognition of their critical role in forming their child(ren) in faith. This godparent blessing follows the order for the blessing and commissioning of catechists, as provided by the USCCB.

INTRODUCTION

Presider: As it states in the Introduction for the Baptism of Children: *Baptism is the sacrament by which men and women are incorporated into the Church, built into a house where God lives. The Church believes it is its most basic and necessary duty to inspire all, catechumens, parents of children still to be baptized, and godparents, to that true and living faith by which they hold fast to Christ...*

Godparents contribute to this maturing of faith through their celebration of the sacraments and their manner of life.

Today, we honor all those who are Godparents in this parish community, and ask them to stand for a special blessing.

All of the godparents in the assembly stand.

BLESSING OF GODPARENTS: Option 2

Once the godparents are standing, the presider continues:

Presider: Let us pray.

Pause

God of light and love, we thank you for the joy of being a Godparent, and for the opportunity this role provides our sisters and brothers to journey with their godchildren as they grow in faith. Keep these your servants faithful to the promises they made to pray for their godchildren and to encourage them always to deepen their relationship with you. Help these godparents to be a prayerful, supportive, and loving presence in the lives of their godchildren; and to model for them a life rooted in your Son, Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

If desirable, the assembly may signify its support by applause, an acclamation, or an appropriate hymn.

The presider then continues with the final blessing and dismissal.