

*Prayers for
Newborn and
Infant
Grandchildren*

FOR A MOTHER IN LABOR (ST. COLETTE OF CORBIE)

St. Colette, pray for us today as my daughter labors
to bring her child into the world.

May her labor be quick and her joy complete.

As my grandchild enters this world, may she be healthy
and feel safe and secure and loved.

Today and every day, bless this sweet family, Lord,
that they may grow together in peace and love.

Amen.

ABOUT ST. COLETTE OF CORBIE (D. 1447)

Many miracles were attributed to this French abbess, who was foundress of a reformed branch of the Poor Clares. In one instance, St. Colette was traveling to Nice to meet Pope Benedict when she stopped by the home of a friend, whose wife was in labor and was not expected to survive the birth. Colette immediately went to the local church and prayed. When both mother and child survived, the family credited St. Colette's intercessory prayers. The child, christened Pierinne, later joined the order founded by St. Colette. She became the elderly nun's biographer and secretary, and she recorded other miracles attributed to St. Colette as well. St. Colette is considered the patroness of expectant mothers and sick children.

FOR A BABY IN INTENSIVE CARE (ST. NICHOLAS)

St. Nicholas, patron of children, watch over my tiny grandchild as she struggles to fully develop. May she gain strength each day.

Bless her nurses in their intricate work.

Guide their hands and their hearts

as they work tirelessly for the lives of the babies in their care.

Intercede for us to Christ for the gift of a miracle.

We need the gifts of faith and trust.

Her parents need the light of hope.

St. Nicholas, guard my grandchild

and all other children who are fighting for their lives today.

Amen.

ABOUT ST. NICHOLAS (D. 343)

Although he is most popularly associated with the cultural icon Santa Claus, St. Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra, an ancient Greek city. He is best remembered in churches of both East and West for his tender generosity to the poor and vulnerable, as well as for his tireless defense of the Catholic faith. He is the patron saint of children because of the multiple stories involving his miraculous intervention to save the lives of many in Myra. He helped a widower with dowries for his daughters and saved the lives of three children who were going to die at the hands of evil men.

IN CELEBRATION

Joy is very infectious; therefore, be always
full of joy.

—Mother Teresa

Lord, thank you for my beautiful grandchild.
She fills our family with joy.
As I learn my place in her life,
help me to cherish each moment.
Her mere presence is a gift.
As she makes her way in this life,
may she feel my support.
If she stumbles, may she know that I am here for her.
I am grateful.
Words cannot express the joy she brings.
Lord, thank you.
Amen.

FOR AN ADOPTED GRANDCHILD

All things are possible for God.

—Mark 10:27

Lord, my children have brought this beautiful grandchild into our lives through adoption.
You have heard and answered our prayers.
Help her to feel comfortable and loved.
Bless us all with a gentle transition.
As she finds her way in our family,
may she learn the ways of your love, Lord,
an unconditional love that sees differences and struggles,
but perseveres even through the hard times.
Open our hearts to one another, and give us patience.
Lord, hold my precious grandchild gently in your loving care
today and every day. Give her peace.
Amen.

FOR A GRANDCHILD
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
(BL. MARGARET OF CASTELLO)

Bl. Margaret, you know what it is
to be different from other children. Intercede for us so
that my precious grandchild may be treated with patience and
understanding.

Together we will face difficult challenges;
pray for us, that we will work together to help him become
the person God created him to be.

In loving him, may we learn how much God loves us.

In guiding him, may we understand his patience.

We give thanks for his strong will and his loving heart.

Pray for us, dear Margaret, that we might always be thankful
for the gift of his life, so perfect in the eyes of Christ.

Bl. Margaret, help those he encounters to love him
as much as we love him.

Amen.

ABOUT BL. MARGARET OF CASTELLO

(D. 1320)

Born blind and with several physical difficulties, this future Dominican sister was abandoned by her parents at the age of six after they took her to a shrine for healing, and realized she would not be healed. A woman in the town found her and took her home, where Margaret flourished and soon became

a favorite of the city. She worked with the sick and spent time with those who were lonely and grieving. When she died, she was buried inside the town church, and the entire town attended her funeral.

FOR AN INFANT WITH HEALTH ISSUES (ST. JUDE)

St. Jude, intercede for us for our grandchild.

Her situation seems desperate.

Watch over her as she struggles to fully develop.

Ask God to help her to gain strength daily so that she may grow to be healthy in mind and body and spirit.

Bless the nurses and doctors who care for her, and guide their hands.

She needs the gift of a miracle, and we need the gifts of faith and trust.

Help us as we pray for her healing.

Amen.

If you wish to pray the St. Jude Novena, turn to page 169 in Traditional Prayers and Novenas.

ABOUT ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE (D. 70)

St. Jude is the patron saint of hope and impossible causes, and he was one of the original twelve followers of Christ. He is the brother of James the Less, not to be confused with Judas Iscariot. It is partly because of the similarity of their names that St. Jude became the patron of lost causes—it was thought that few invoked his intercession, so he had time for the really tough assignments!

ON THE DEATH OF MY TINY GRANDCHILD

Lord, I just need time to grieve. I need to cry.

My poor son and daughter-in-law—their loss is devastating.

Help me to be a good example of faith, someone they can rely on for comfort. Nothing I can say or do will make this easier. This is between you and them.

We do not know the reasons why. Help us to cling to one another as family.

Help me to listen—just listen and be present.

Amen.

*Prayers for
Sacramental
Graces*

FOR A CHILD'S BAPTISM (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Then he allowed him.

—Matthew 3:13–15

St. John the Baptist, your entire life was spent pointing others to Christ.

Pray for my grandchild today, that he will live for Jesus too.
And just as you were called to baptize Jesus,
so we are called to witness to the baptism of our grandchild.
May he be cleansed with the waters of life and anointed with
chrism,

that he may live always as a member of the Body of Christ.
May the flame of Christ be the light for his life so
that he may follow the teachings of the Church.

As he wears the white garment of purity,
may he grow each day to be chaste in word and deed.
And may his godparents truly support
his commitment to the Catholic Church.

St. John, you decreased so that others could see Christ.
Intercede for my grandchild,

that he may continually see Christ in his life and an increase
in his faith.

Amen.

ABOUT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (FIRST CENTURY)

St. John was a cousin of Jesus and a herald of Jesus' public ministry from the time their mothers were still carrying them in the womb (see Luke 1:39–56). Although St. John died before Jesus (see Mark 6:17–29), he did fulfill an important mission. God called him to baptize Jesus in the Jordan River, where Jesus instituted the Church's Sacrament of Baptism.