

Baptism today

Already at birth the small child can receive gifts, something in silver or money. Today it is also common to give clothes and toys to the newborn. Naming is now done by reporting to the local tax authority within three months of the child's birth.

For most people, baptism is an important event in the family's life. The baptism usually takes place in the church, otherwise at home. It is done according to the Church of Sweden handbook in Sami or Swedish, depending on the parent's wishes. The child wears a white christening gown or an infant *kolt*. It is an opportunity for the whole family to get together. After the christening, the parents offer food or coffee, and the christening gifts are opened. The gifts consist of silver spoons, costume silver and other keepsakes with lasting value.

The godparents play an important role at baptism. The choice of godparents is made with great care. The parents choose from among their close friends and relatives. For the sponsors, sponsoring means taking responsibility, both spiritually and materially, for the child during its upbringing. You get an emotional relation to your godchild, which you cling to in different ways despite sometimes long distances.