

## **Baby Dedications at True North Community Church**

Please take a moment to fill out the information to request a baby dedication here:

[https://truenorthchurch.ccbchurch.com/form\\_response.php?id=59](https://truenorthchurch.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=59).

From there, someone on our church staff will be in touch with you via email to schedule the baby dedication or answer any questions you might have.

Our procedure for baby dedications is pretty simple. They are done immediately following our 11:30am Sunday morning service.

The pastor invites the parents or parent (single parent dedications are fine) up to the area in front of the stage with the baby, and speaks briefly to the parents about their role in the child's spiritual life. The pastor then takes the baby into their arms, makes the sign of the cross on their forehead with a small drop of anointing oil and prays for the child.

The pastor then returns the baby to the parents, everybody claps and the parents are seated. The whole dedication only takes about 3 or 4 minutes.

The wording of the dedication service is a charge from the pastor to the parents to raise their son or daughter in the faith. During the service, the parents make a promise to God in front of their friends and family that it is their intention to raise their child in the truth of God's instruction, to bring them to church on Sundays, to pray for them and to encourage them to one day trust Jesus as their Savior.

As a parent, if these are promises you are not ready to make and follow through on, we humbly ask that you re-consider having a dedication service for your child at True North. Authenticity (honesty) is one of our church's core values and since this commitment is made publicly, we want to encourage you to think carefully about this before signing up.

However, if these are promises that you as a parent are ready to make and follow through on, then we are really excited and honored to share this time with you.

Just call the church office at 631-476-3811 for availability or send an email to [info@truenorthchurch.net](mailto:info@truenorthchurch.net) and we will contact you with info on what that morning's message will be about.

It might be a good idea to have several potential dates available so that you can choose a date when the pastor's sermon will be appropriate for any visiting friends and relatives.

Listed below are some frequently asked questions that you may find helpful. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

The Staff at True North

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Will Pastor Bert perform the dedication?**

Pastor Bert performs many but not all of the baby dedications at True North. Pastors Matt and Pete as well as our Arts Programming Director Jen Hinst-White (a licensed minister) all perform baby dedications on a regular, rotating basis.

### **What does this cost?**

There is no charge for the service. Donations are welcome and can be placed in the offering plate during the service or left at the Guest Services table in the lobby.

### **What's the deal with godparents?**

Some have asked us if the child's godparents can stand with them during the dedication. The answer is Yes. This is totally at the parents' discretion. Some choose to have the godparents remain seated, but godparents are welcome to join the parent(s) up front during the dedication.

With regard to choosing godparents, there are two schools of thought and no hard, fast rules. One is that the godparents are those who would take care of a child if they had no remaining living family. But since this rarely happens and because being someone's godparent is not a valid way to gain custody of an orphan, this is mostly an outdated tradition.

The other way of thinking is the more traditional role - that godparents are people who are asked to take a special role in the spiritual life of the child and to commit themselves to helping them grow up in Christ. For this job, obviously, the godparents need to have some measure of spiritual depth themselves.

Unfortunately, most godparents are chosen on the basis of "who will be offended if they are not asked." We're just going to come right out and say "That's silly". If you're going to have godparents at all, choose them on their ability and desire to see your child grow to love the Lord. Otherwise, it's fine to pass on the idea altogether and not have godparents at all.

Godparents don't have to be related to the baby or to each other.

### **Is this the same as baptism?**

Some people confuse this ceremony with baptism. Actually, the two are very different.

The Bible teaches that Baptism is something for those who already believe. In other words, it's for people who are old enough to understand what it means.

For a free copy of a message on the meaning of baptism, just send an email to [info@truenorthchurch.net](mailto:info@truenorthchurch.net) and request it. Thanks.

## **How old is too old for a baby dedication?**

We dedicate babies who have not yet reached their first birthday.

Once a child is past his/her first birthday, we encourage you to not worry about doing a dedication service and just wait until the child is old enough to understand what baptism is.