

## What is the Purpose of Parent/Child Dedication?

The tradition of Parent/Child dedication originates in the Bible. It was based on God's command for the Israelites to bring their firstborn sons for consecration on the eighth day of the child's life. In *1 Samuel*, Hannah brought her son Samuel to Eli, the priest, to dedicate him to the Lord. Furthermore, Jesus was brought as a baby to the Temple by Mary and Joseph, fulfilling the Jewish purification laws.

In dedicating our children to the Lord, we are really committing ourselves as parents to the biblical task of raising them in a way that is pleasing to God. Families with new children are strengthened when they publicly dedicate themselves to raise their children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Our promise, or covenant, with God is a solemn and serious commitment that we should not take lightly. In our Parent/Child Dedication Service, we are promising the Lord that with His help we intend to...

- *teach the Scripture to your child*
- *pray with them regularly*
- *model a life of holy living that is pleasing to God.*

*"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."  
Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

Our desire is that this time of dedication be a special memory involving you and your child. We suggest parents prepare by doing the following . . .

Study the following passages of Scripture:

- Leviticus 12:1-8, Exodus 13:12-13
- 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 2:21-40
- Psalm 127:3, Psalm 37:5
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:6
- Ephesians 6:4
- 1 Corinthians 4:2

Contact Amy Hernandez in the church office to set up a date for the dedication.

After securing the date, invite your family to celebrate this beautiful milestone in your child's life.

Submit a digital photo of your child to be displayed on-screen during the dedication.

*If you have any additional questions or if we can be of help, please contact:*

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## Parent/Child Dedication



*When God blesses us with the precious gift of a child, it is good to respond to God with thankfulness and a fresh commitment.*

*As we reflect on our responsibility as parents, we naturally seek God's help and His wisdom. We want the best for our children and that can only be found in God's plan for parenting.*

**Parent/Child Dedication is a special time to declare before others that your child is given to the Lord . . .**

As parents you are committing yourselves in the presence of many witnesses to be the parents that God, through His Holy Spirit, will lead you to be. This Dedication Service is an indication of your desire for your child to one day make that personal commitment to Jesus Christ and to follow the Lord in a life of service for Him.

The dedication of your child occurs during a regularly scheduled worship service so that you can present both your child and yourselves in public commitment before the Lord, the pastor and the congregation. In turn, the people of Cross of Glory commit to support your family and partner with you on your Christian pilgrimage and parenting.

The benefit of our public dedication of children is the accountability it provides for us as parents. It is also a regular reminder to our church family of the importance of children and our shared responsibility in their spiritual growth.

**The church is an extended family for these children.  
Today's children are tomorrow's church leaders who will carry on the work of ministry.**

## Common Questions About Parent/Child Dedication. . .



*Children are  
a treasure  
from the  
Lord.*

*Psalm 127:3*

### **What is the Difference Between Dedication and Infant Baptism?**

A baby is not able to understand the commitment that is being made; however, we as parents do. It is the faith of the parents, not the child that is the focus of the Dedication Service. Therefore, as we dedicate our children to the Lord, we are dedicating ourselves to love, nurture and train them in the principles of Christian living. We do not baptize babies at Cross of Glory because the Bible teaches that baptism is only for those who have personally accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Very young children cannot make that decision. Baptism is a public testimony of an inward transformation by the Holy Spirit in the life of an individual. (*Acts 2:41*)

The dedication of a baby does not guarantee a baby's salvation, but is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your desire and willingness to teach your child the truth of God's Word that one day may lead to his or her salvation.

### **At what age are Children Dedicated?**

We encourage you to dedicate your baby before the age of six months. Not only does this make the service more comfortable for you and your baby, but it also serves as a good reminder that it's never too early to begin the process of spiritually nurturing our children. We also welcome parents with older children who desire to make a public commitment to the Lord and have not been part of this tradition previously to dedicate their children as well.

### **Are Other Participants Allowed?**

Though it is not required, grandparents, Godparents, or older children may join you on the platform by the family's choice.

Godparents or sponsors (commonly two) support the family. They guarantee the child's religious education. Often it is the godparents who act as legal custodians should something happen to the parents; however, their primary purpose is spiritual.

### **Can my Child Wear a Christening Gown?**

Yes, these are often family heirlooms with a meaningful history in the extended family. The word "christen" was used in the church history to refer to infant baptism. Christening gowns are not required; rather, the family's choice of garment for the child is encouraged.