

Baby Dedication Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the baby dedication?

At Rosemont we believe that a child's spiritual development is their parent's responsibility, and want them to know that we, the church, want to partner with them as they begin this journey.

The Baby Dedication ceremony is the first milestone in our D6 family ministry. It gives parents the opportunity to make a public commitment to God, their family and their church to lead and spiritually nurture their child in order for them to develop a love for God.

Our family ministry is built on the belief that Deuteronomy 6:5-9 is God's plan for how a parent should raise up a child, and is referenced in great detail during the ceremony.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 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 live down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Do I have to be a member of Rosemont to have my child dedicated?

You do not have to be a member of Rosemont to have your child dedicated in the ceremony. We do encourage parents to make sure they are calling Rosemont their home church. Why? In dedicating your child to God, you were stating that you are willing to partner with God *and with the church* in your child's spiritual development. To partner with any church a parent would be wise to decide if he or she agrees with this beliefs and vision.

To have your child dedicated at Rosemont, we ask parents:

- to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- to be sure their beliefs lineup with the beliefs of Rosemont Baptist Church.
- to be regular attenders of Rosemont services.
- who are living together and who are not married to take steps to acknowledge and surrender to God's plan for their relationship before participating in a child dedication service.

What can I expect during a baby dedication ceremony?

During the dedication service, parents express vows before God, their family and the church, declaring their desire to raise a child in a God honoring way. Because parents are the key role models for their children, they play a primary role in the dedication service.

Parents will be asked to read Deuteronomy 6:5-8, as well as to affirm the following commitments:

- Do you receive this child with gratitude, as God's gift to you and your family?
- Do you commit to each other as parents, creating a stable environment in which your child can mature?
- Will you make a covenant to strengthen your marriage relationship?
- Do you commit to be parents of personal faith, recognizing your children are more likely to follow God's path by the model they first observe in you?
- Do you commit to leave a faith filled home that honors God and all your relationships and then the choices you make and spiritually growing your family?
- Do you commit to be parents with patience, recognizing that with your inherent strengths and weaknesses, your desire to shape your child is a loving that will require time, prayer, and God in order to produce in your children what He you hope for?

Does Rosemont baptize infants?

Scripture provides evidence that Baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Christ Alone for salvation (Acts 2:41, 8:12 and 10:47-48). In the Bible, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them, and told us to welcome them. There are no accounts of Him baptizing them.

We, at Rosemont, believe that Baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation. With young children, we feel that until the age of 6, they are cognitively unable to understand the concepts needed to make such an important decision. All children, 1st – 5th grades, must attend a 4 week New Christian's Class prior to their baptism. In this class, they cover the following topics: Sin, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Prayer, etc. It is our desire for all children to make the decision to become a follower of Christ, and to understand what they have done to avoid confusion as they grow older.

At what age can a child take part in a dedication service?

There are no age requirements for babies/children to participate in a dedication service.

Can a single-parent participate in a child dedication service?

Yes! Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents (including single parents) to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Christ. Additionally, we highly encourage single parents to dedicate their child as they commit themselves to raise him or her without the presence of a spouse.

How often does Rosemont have baby dedications?

Baby dedications are generally held in the Fall and Spring, unless there is a need for an additional service in Winter.