

FAQs

What exactly is Infant Dedication/Baptism?

The introduction of a new baby into your family is an exciting time! God has given parents the most influence in the lives of their children, and baptizing or dedicating your child is a way to commit to modeling what it means to follow Jesus. This doesn't mean that you're going to be perfect—no one is—but it does mean that you're going to give them opportunities to explore who Jesus is. So it's really more about your role as parents, than it is your children. Baptizing or dedicating your child is a way to commit, in front of God and your faith community, to teaching your kids what it means to follow Jesus.

What's the difference between *Dedicating* and *Baptizing* your child?

It really comes down to tradition and personal preference. Some families come from traditions where infant baptism is part of their heritage, while others do not. There is a long tradition in some Christian denominations of baptizing infants. This practice comes from the belief that Baptism replaced circumcision as the mark of the covenant between God and his people. In the Old Testament, boys were circumcised to picture the covenant God had made. In the New Testament, Baptism was the sign of the new covenant God had made through the death of Jesus.

Other traditions within the Christian faith have chosen to dedicate infants for concern that an infant baptism may be confused with a believer's baptism (where an individual publicly acknowledges his decision to follow Jesus). Some parents would prefer that children are only baptized once, after they have made a personal decision to follow Jesus.

In conclusion, regardless of whether a child is baptized or dedicated, they will still have to personally choose to follow Jesus when they are older. Infant Baptism or Dedication does not affect a child's salvation; it is a commitment that parents make to God, declaring that they will do their best to raise their child to love and follow him.

Are there any pre-requisites for having my child dedicated or baptized?

It is important that the family considering an infant baptism or dedication be closely connected to the church community, as both the parents and faith community commit to play a part in the spiritual development of the child. That is why we ask the following requirements be met prior to the ceremony:

1. At least one parent must be a Christ-follower. Because Crossroads is a community for those who are seeking spiritual truth, many in our community have not yet made a commitment to follow Jesus. We want people to be free to investigate for as long as they would like, but it is important that at least one parent has a personal relationship with Jesus in order to guide their child's spiritual formation.
2. At least one parent must attend Crossroads.

Can we invite friends and family to the ceremony?

Absolutely! As this is a commitment on the part of parents AND their faith community, we encourage friends and family to attend. Some family members or friends even choose to participate in the ceremony.

Do I have to have my child baptized or dedicated at the Crossroads ceremony or can I do it privately without Crossroads staff present?

You are certainly welcome to participate in Crossroads' Infant Dedication and Baptism, and if you would like to do a similar private service, without Crossroads staff, you are also welcome to do so. Some families have chosen to invite close friends and family members to participate in a special, private ceremony, located at their house or some other venue.

How do I sign up to participate?

Please complete the Infant Baptism/Dedication Registration Form and the Family Story Sheet online. Submit them online, along with emailing a current picture of your child to infants@crossroads.net, or print out a photo and take it to the Kids' Club Information Desk, or to the Kids' Club office. Once we receive your information, we will contact you to confirm and provide further instructions. We are limited to 20 families per baptism. If we are full, you will be notified and automatically added to the next ceremony date.

For more info, contact Kids' Club:

Email infants@crossroads.net or call 513.731.7400 x1130.

commitments

QUESTIONS WE'LL ASK AS YOU BAPTIZE OR DEDICATE YOUR CHILD

To Parents:

The Bible says “Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.” *Psalm 127:3*

Will you raise and love your child, keeping in mind that he/she is uniquely created and is a gift from God?

Realizing that you have the opportunity to be the most influential person in your child's life, will you daily model what it means to follow Jesus?

Will you rely on God to lead you and show you the path for your child, teaching your child that the Bible's truth is timeless and speaks to our everyday lives?

Will you regularly pray over and with your child—asking for God's guidance in leading them?

Will you seek opportunities to be in community with other believers, modeling to your child what it means to live in community with others who are following Jesus?

To Friends and Family:

Will you look for opportunities to support, encourage and love this family and assist these parents as they raise and lead their child?

Will you commit to pray that this child will come to know, love and follow Jesus?

ceremony logistics

What time will the ceremony begin?

1:15pm, after the last service, to give parents time to pick up their children after service.

Do I have to dress up?

No—you're welcome to wear anything you'd like.

Can I stick around afterwards and hang out in the Atrium?

Absolutely. Feel free to hang out with friends and family, and you can even bring refreshments.

Where will the ceremony be held?

In the Chapel at Crossroads Oakley. Look for signs in the Atrium to point you in the right direction.

Do I need to check in before entering the Chapel?

Yes. We ask all families to check in at the podium outside the Chapel door by 1pm.

What is the role of parents during the ceremony?

Parents will introduce themselves and their child before the dedication or baptism. Parents are also welcome to share any personal stories concerning their child, but this is not required. Personal stories might include special circumstances surrounding the birth of their child, significant meaning in the child's name, etc.

Will pictures be taken during the ceremony, and if so, can we get a copy?

Yes, Crossroads will provide a volunteer photographer to take pictures during the ceremony. The pictures will be uploaded to a secure site that will be emailed to you about a week after the service. You are also encouraged to take your own photos or video.

How long will the service last?

About one hour.