

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
APOSTOLIC OF FT. LAUDERDALE

BABY DEDICATION MANUAL



Baby Blessing Song

(Congregation sings while mother with baby and family approaches the Pastor)

When mothers of Salem
Their children brought to Jesus,
The stern disciples drove them back
And bade them depart;
But Jesus saw them ere they fled,
And sweetly smiled, and kindly said,
"Suffer little children
To come unto Me.

2 "For I will receive them
And fold them in my bosom;
I'll be a shepherd to these lambs,
O drive them not away;
For, if their hearts to Me they give,
They shall with Me in glory live:
Suffer little children
To come unto Me."

3 How kind was our Savior
To bid these children welcome!
But there are many thousands
Who have never heard His name;
The Bible they have never read;
They know not that the Savior said,
"Suffer little children
To come unto Me."

4 O soon may the heathen
Of every tribe and nation
Fulfill Thy blessed word,
And cast their idols all away;
O shine upon them from above,
And show Thyself a God of love;
Teach the little children
To come unto Thee.



COMMON QUESTIONS REGARDING BABY DEDICATIONS

WHO SHOULD BE DEDICATED?

Baby dedications are for newborn babies through children in their toddler years. Baby Blessing Day is for those families who want to publicly commit before God that they will raise their child in a biblical manner. If you are attending the church. This occasion is for those who are members and non-members as well

IS BABY DEDICATION THE SAME AS BABY BAPTISM?

We believe that the process of dedication and Baptism is separate. We believe that baptism is for those who have repented of their sins believe Christ as their Savior (Acts 2:38.) Since a baby is unable to understand their need for repentance, we do not practice infant baptism..

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BABY DEDICATION?

Baby Dedications are a time for believing Christian parent(s) to make a commitment to God, their family and the rest of the local congregation, that they will intentionally raise their children in a way that honors God.

All of our baby dedications are held during a Sunday worship service. During the service, we invite the parents and children to come to the front of the congregation and we take time to pray for the child and accompanying parent(s) Our prayer during this time is two-fold; that God will bless the children being dedicated and grant wisdom and understanding to the parents. At the end of the dedication, we will give you a certificate of dedication.



WHY DO WE DEDICATE CHILDREN?

We believe the essence of this practice is contained in Scripture. In 1 Samuel chapters 1 and 2, Hannah, who had a deep trust and love for God, prayed and asked that she be given a child. When she prayed for her child, she promised that she would give her child back to the Lord. We believe this biblical example inspires our valuable tradition of baby dedication. Each of our children are a gift from God. As Christian parents, as we dedicate them we are “*giving our children back to the Lord*” and entrusting them to His care. Our prayer is that each child would follow in the footsteps of Jesus,

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

Luke 2:52

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARENTS?

Because baby dedication is in essence a commitment from the parents to raise their children in a God-honoring way, our baby dedications require at least one parent to believe in a Godly upbringing.

We encourage parents present at the dedication service to procure a relationship with Christ as they grow up the child. If you are unsure what it means to follow Jesus Christ, or have any other questions about these requirements, we would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail.

WHEN ARE BABY DEDICATIONS HELD?

We schedule baby dedications based upon requests. We do not have specifically scheduled baby dedications. Once a family request the baby dedication it is scheduled at the pastoral team’s convenience.



WHAT DO WE DO AT THE DEDICATION SERVICE?

We have our baby dedications during our Sunday morning service. After the Opening Welcome of our service, we will ask the parents and children to come and stand in front of the congregation. The pastor will take a moment to introduce each of the parents and children. After each of the children are introduced, the pastor will ask the families the following questions regarding the raising of their children:

Pastor: Do you this day recognize this child as a gift of God, and thank Him for this blessing?

Parent(s). We/I do

Pastor: Do you dedicate yourselves to raise your child in a Godly home, where Christ and His church are honored?

Parent(s). We/I do

Pastor: Do you promise to instruct your child to know, love, and fear the Lord?

Parent(s): We/I do

Pastor: Do you this day, ask God's blessings upon your child's life, to guide, guard, and direct them through all their years?

Parent(s). We/I do

Pastor: After each question, the parents will respond with “we do”.

Parent(s). We/I do

The pastor will then turn to the congregation and ask them the following question:

Pastor: Do you promise to encourage, support, and pray for these parents as they seek to live out their commitments in a way that brings glory to God?

Congregation: We do, by God's help and parental permission

After the congregation responds with “we do”, the pastor performing the baby dedication will pray over the children who are being dedicated and then dismiss the families to their seats. (Pastor may. Pray for the family)

