

Baby Dedications at True North

Thanks for your interest in dedicating your child to the Lord at True North.

Our procedure for baby dedications is pretty simple. They are done during our Sunday services, usually at the very beginning of the service.

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

He 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 content of the service is a charge from the pastor to the parents, to raise the child in the faith. During the service, the parents make a promise to God in front of the entire congregation that it is their intention to raise their child in the truth of our Lord'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 a child's dedication ought not to be founded on promises you don't intend to keep.

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

Just call the church office at 631-476-3811 for availability and we will put a date on the calendar. 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.

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 info table in the lobby.

** A quick word regarding godparents -

Some have asked us if the child's godparents can stand with them during the dedication. This is totally at the parents' discretion. Most choose have the godparents remain seated. Godparents are welcome to stand but will not have a direct role in the service.

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 and you can have them stand with you during the dedication or not.

** A quick word regarding 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, send an email to info@truenorthchurch.net and request it. Thanks.