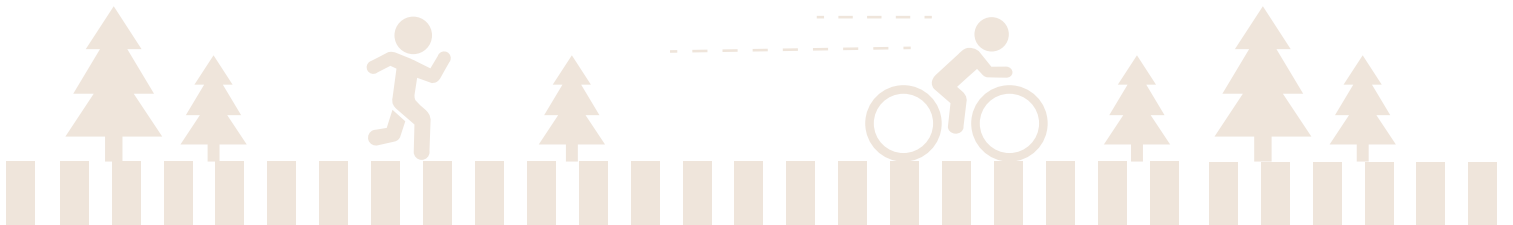




**INFANT BAPTISM & DEDICATION**

**BAPTISM**



# say it loud

We're so glad you're interested in dedicating or baptizing your infant. This is a significant "mark the moment" time in the life of your family.

**Once you've submitted the Personal Story sheet and Registration Form to the *Kids' Club Info Center* or to [kc@crossroads.net](mailto:kc@crossroads.net), we'll contact you with dates for the next Baptism Celebration service.**

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**So that we can keep the service to less than an hour, we do limit the number of families that participate in each ceremony. Spots are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. You may register to participate online or fill out the registration page in this packet.**

**Take the completed packet to the Kids' Club Info Desk or to the office at any Crossroads location.**

**This packet contains all the information you need about Infant Baptism & Dedication:**

- **Background/FAQs and contact info**
- **Commitment from parents, family and friends**
- **Ceremony logistics**
- **Registration form**
- **Family story sheet**

**Questions? Contact us at:**  
[kc@crossroads.net](mailto:kc@crossroads.net)

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# 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.

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## 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, but if you would like to do a similar private service, without Crossroads staff, you are certainly 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 included in this packet. Return them, along with a current picture of your child, to the Kids' Club Info Desk, or to the office at any Crossroads location. Once we receive your information, we will contact you to confirm and provide further instructions.

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**Questions? Contact us at**  
kc@crossroads.net

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# commitments

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

### To Parents:

Will you love your child unconditionally, recognizing that God has designed each person with unique gifts and for a special purpose?

***Psalm 139:13-14***

Will you model what following Jesus looks like by loving God with all your heart, soul and strength?

***Deuteronomy 6:5***

Will you teach your child by example that the Bible is God's word and that learning his truth is valuable and applicable to our lives every day?

***Proverbs 3:5-6***

Will you pray for and with your child, teaching him or her to turn to God with every request and to give God thanks even when it's hard?

***Philippians 4:6***

Will you routinely look for opportunities to spend time in community with others who follow Jesus?

***Acts 3:42-47***

### Family and Friends:

***(listen to the whole statement, then agree, or not)***

I will be present and available to provide casseroles, plan play dates, and help in other ways as needed. I will always be willing to listen and, when appropriate, offer advice. I will reflect God's love to this child by caring for him or her and calling out his or her God-given characteristics. And most importantly, I will commit to praying that this child will come to know, love and follow Jesus.

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# ceremony logistics

## **DO I HAVE TO DRESS UP?**

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

## **DO I NEED TO CHECK IN BEFORE ENTERING THE SERVICE?**

Yes. We ask all families to check in before the service begins.

## **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.