

## *What is baby/child dedication?*

Baby/child dedication is the act of giving back to God the gift He has given you as parents. It is an act of worship, thanksgiving, dependence, trust and commitment. We as Christians have a tremendous responsibility given to us when the Lord blesses us with a child.

The practice of baby/child dedication has been modeled throughout the Bible. The Israelites brought their 8-day-old children to the priest for blessing. Hannah (I Samuel 1:24-28) brought her long-awaited son Samuel to the priest Eli to dedicate him to the Lord. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for His dedication.

We recognize that salvation only comes to a child through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not passed on to a child through dedication. Parents covenant to raise their children by modeling Godly principles with the desire that one day, their children will receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Baby/child dedication is different from infant baptism or christening. We believe that the Bible teaches that baptism should take place after a person has made a personal choice to follow Jesus Christ.

Baby/child dedications are scheduled about three times a year. A baby/child dedication registration form is to be filled out and turned into the church office at least 1 week prior to the scheduled service. You may either download this form and mail it to the office or fill it out online and submit it. Someone will contact you regarding your desire to dedicate your baby/child.

Check out upcoming dedication dates or register here. For more information contact Susan at 209-634-4935 or [susan@montevistachapel.org](mailto:susan@montevistachapel.org).

## *Baby/Child Dedication*

It is our desire at Monte Vista Chapel for the parents of each child being dedicated to the Lord to have a Biblical understanding of what "baby/child dedication" signifies. With this as our goal, we would like you to help us by answering a few brief questions that will be used to assist in preparing you and your child for dedication.

### **Fathers please fill out section below:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you attend Monte Vista Chapel:  Regularly  Occasionally  Never

What was your primary religious background/affiliation while growing up: ( Protestant, Catholic, unchurched or???) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Christ follower?  Yes  No  Still considering  Unsure what it means

What does having your child dedicated mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Mothers please fill out section below:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you attend Monte Vista Chapel:  Regularly  Occasionally  Never

What was your primary religious background/affiliation while growing up: ( Protestant, Catholic, unchurched or???) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Christ follower??  Yes  No  Still considering  Unsure what it means

What does having your child dedicated mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Because of the spiritual nature of this ceremony and the parents pledge you are given to sign it is helpful for the pastor to understand the marital and living situation of both parents. Which of the following best describes the parent's marital and living situation?

Married and living together  Never married and living together

Never married and not living together  Divorced  Separated

Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**Baby/Child to be Dedicated:** (If you are dedicating more than one child, please fill out this form for each child)

Name of child to be dedicated \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Please provide pronunciation if needed \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_  M  F

Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Who will participate in the Baby/Child Dedication Ceremony? (check all that apply)

Both Parents  Mother only  Father only  Extended family

In which service would you like to participate?  9:15 am  11:00 am

We will need a picture of your baby/child. You may email a digital photo at least 5 days before the dedication to [darla@montevistachapel.org](mailto:darla@montevistachapel.org) or drop a photo off at the church office.

### **What Will Happen During Dedication:**

The morning of your baby/child's dedication you will need to arrive in the worship center at least 5 minutes prior to the service beginning. Please sit anywhere you would like. When it is time for the dedication one of the pastors will invite you to come forward with your baby/child and any extended family present. The pastor will speak first to the church family as to their responsibility to your family. He will then speak to the parents regarding their commitment to raising their child in a Christian family. At that time a pastor will pray with just your family and baby/child. Our children's pastor will present you with a children's Bible and a Parent's Pledge certificate you may sign and frame. After the pastor has prayed with you, you are welcome to return to your seats or to take your baby/child to the nursery.

### **A Parent's Responsibility:**

- Pray for your child

It is both a parent's privilege and responsibility to pray for their children. Mark 11:24 tells us, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Trust God to answer your prayers for your child.

- Instruct your child in the way of the Lord

We are taught in Ephesians 6:4 to "bring them (your children) up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Proverbs 22:6 adds, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Parents should instruct their children and guide their spiritual growth. Our children's ministries department at Monte Vista Chapel is here to assist parents in the spiritual training of their children.

- Be a living example of Christ to your children

Proverbs 20:7 says "The righteous man walks in integrity; his children are blessed after him." Children look up to their parents as an example on which to model their own behavior. Parents should strive to be a godly example just as Christ is our example.

