



shadow**ROCK**
CHURCH

CHILD DEDICATION

Parents who dedicate a child are making a promise to the Lord before the church congregation to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way – prayerfully – until he or she can make a decision on his or her own to follow God.



EVERY CHILD IS A GIFT OF GOD!

Shadow Rock believes children are a gift from God, and we are very excited that you are investigating child dedication.

Child dedication is a public commitment you make before God, your church, and your family. The dedication service provides you, the parent(s), an opportunity to express publicly your desire to lead and spiritually nurture your child in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, so your child will develop a desire to love God and love others.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Biblical purpose and history of a child dedication?

The scriptural root of a child dedication is found in 1 Samuel 1:27–28, where a godly woman named Hannah prayed year after year for God to give her a child. He answered her prayer and she gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel. When Samuel was born, Hannah prayed these words:

"I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life." And they worshiped the Lord there."

In Luke chapter 2 of the New Testament, following the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the temple and dedicated Him.

In both Scripture passages, the parents entrusted their child completely to God.

One key step in marking your desire to nurture your child in the ways of God is to dedicate him or her to God publically, through a child dedication ceremony.

Do I need to be a Shadow Rock Church member to have my child dedicated at Shadow Rock?

You do not need to be a member of Shadow Rock Church to have your child dedicated in a group or public ceremony at Shadow Rock Church. We do encourage parents to make sure they are calling Shadow Rock their home church. Why? In dedicating your child to God, you are stating that you are willing to partner with God and the church to raise your child in cooperation with God's intentions. To partner with any church, a parent would be wise to decide if he or she agrees with its beliefs and vision, so they can be all-in in their partnership with the church.

What can I expect during a child dedication ceremony?

During the dedication service, the parent(s) expresses vows before God, their family, and the church, declaring their desire to raise their child in a God-honoring way. Because the parent(s) are the key role models for their children, they play a primary role in the dedication service. This is also a time for the entire church community to commit to encourage and support Shadow Rock's children's ministries in an effort to encourage the spiritual, emotional, social, and physical health of each child.

Does Shadow Rock Church baptize infants? Does Shadow Rock Church baptize infants?

Scripture provides evidence that baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation (Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47–48). And the New Testament records the baptisms of adult believers only.

In the Bible, we find parents bringing their children to Jesus. He held them, prayed for them, and told us to welcome them. But He did not baptize them and He did not tell anyone else to baptize them. Shadow Rock believes baptism is for those who have made a personal decision to trust Christ alone for their salvation, once they have the maturity and ability to understand what that means.

Dedication is not a sacrament; nor does it impart grace or salvation to a child. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ as each person recognizes their sinfulness and receives

forgiveness and eternal life through Christ and His work on the cross. Rather than baptizing infants or children, Shadow Rock encourages Christian parents to dedicate their children. This is a ceremony in which parents formally call upon God's blessing for their child and publicly commit to raise him or her in accordance with Scripture.

At what age can a child take part in a dedication service?

Shadow Rock does not have a set age requirement for child dedication, however, the average age for a child to be dedicated is four to eight months old. Many parents dedicate children much older for various reasons. For example, the parent(s) are new believers in Christ, their children were not dedicated when they were infants or they have a younger child dedicated and want to have their older child dedicated at the same time.

Can a single parent participate in a child dedication service?

Yes, of course! Child dedication signifies the commitment of parents (including single parents) to do their best to raise their child to be a follower of Christ. Additionally, we highly encourage single parents to dedicate their child as they commit themselves to raise him or her without the presence or partnership of a spouse. The decision to dedicate a child is not dependent upon the beliefs of the ex-spouse; however we encourage single parents to discuss child dedication with their ex-spouse. Ideally, both parents—even if not married—would still commit to the dedication of their child to God. We acknowledge that this is often not possible, and that it takes extra effort for a single parent to raise a child. As a church, SRC is committed to supporting single parents in

Can parent(s) assign godparents?

Although the term "godparent" is not used at Shadow Rock, we do welcome parents to invite friends and family members who are committed to supporting them to stand with them during the dedication. The presence of these significant adults symbolizes their commitment to play a supportive role in the child's spiritual development.

Learn more and/or sign up on the Connect Card or by emailing us at info@shadowrockchurch.com.