

## **Openwater Church Baby Dedication Details**

### **What is a baby dedication?**

It is actually a promise of the parents to offer their child to God, and to dedicate their lives to bringing up him or her up for the glory of God. A baby dedication is not a sacrament; it does not impart salvation to the child. It is recognizing that the life of a child is a gift from God and it is also an acknowledgment that his or her life belongs to God. The dedication of children is an act of worship taught in the Bible. As a baby, Jesus was dedicated by his parents in Luke 2:22-35. In this dedication there are three things that we want to get accomplished. First, we are to give thanks to God for the creation and birth of your child. Second, we are to make a promise as parents and as a church that we will endeavor to provide guidance in the ways of the Lord for your child in the form of teaching and involvement in children's and youth ministries of the years. Third, we are to pray for God's blessings upon your child's future in the power of the Holy Spirit, remembering how the Lord Jesus Christ took little children and blessed them and said in Matthew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me."

### **When is a baby dedication performed?**

It is performed on Sunday at the church as part of our worship service. When called upon in the service you (and others that are having their baby dedicated on that day) will be asked by the pastor to come to the stage with your child and family. The pastor will pray over each child with the family members laying hands on the child as well during the prayer.

### **What will you and your child receive at the baby dedication?**

You will receive a certificate from the church that will have your child's name, your name, and the date of the dedication. You will also receive a small Bible from the church to which the entire family present at the dedication can sign signifying that they will do everything within their means to help raise your child in the ways of the Lord.

### **How can I reserve a date for my child to be dedicated?**

It's easy. Just call the office at 813-920-9922 or email the church at [office@openwaterchurch.com](mailto:office@openwaterchurch.com) and the staff will give you the dates of the upcoming dedications