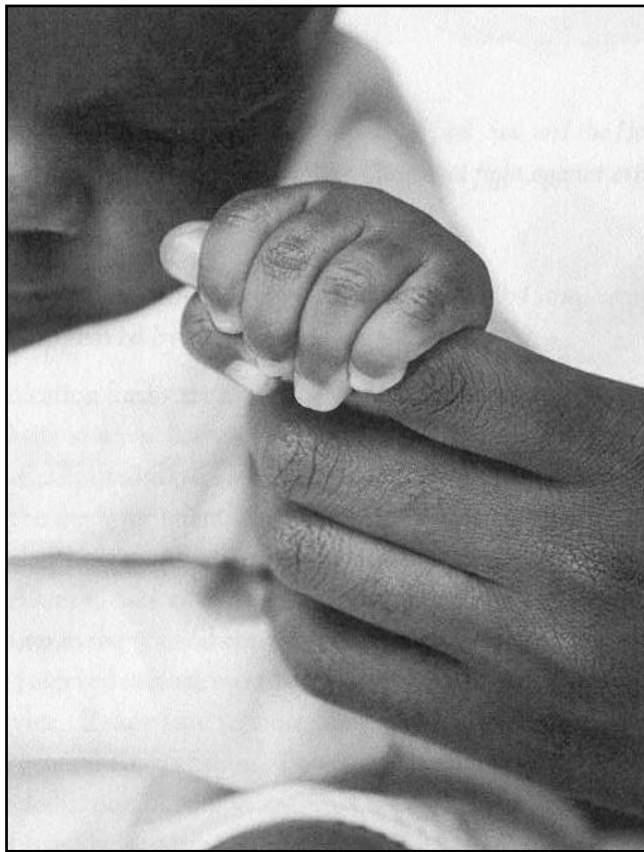


The Grace Baptist Memorial Church

*1100 North Eden Street
Baltimore, MD 21213*

Baby Dedication



*"...I prayed for a child, and the Lord has granted me
what I asked of Him. So now I give him to the Lord.
For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord."
- 1 Samuel 1:26-28 (NIV)*

WHAT IS BABY DEDICATION?

A Baby Dedication is a ceremony in which believing parents, godparents, and sometimes entire families make a commitment before the Lord to submit a child to God's will and to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways.

FOR THE PARENTS

Christian parents who dedicate a child are making a promise to the Lord 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. Parents who make this vow of commitment are instructed to raise the child in the ways of God and not according to their own ways. Some of the responsibilities include teaching and training the child in God's Word, demonstrating an example of godliness, disciplining according to God's ways and praying earnestly for the child.

CHOOSING A GODPARENT

What should you look for when it comes to choosing a Godparent? Can the person be trusted to maintain a long-term relationship with the child?

GODPARENT...

- Enjoys prayer life*
- Is spiritual in their words and actions*
- Is prepared to guide the godchild towards salvation*
- Enjoys stability in their lives*
- Has high moral character*
- Has patience and can relate to a child*
- Would be an exemplary role model*

FOR THE GODPARENTS

The role of the Godparent is to look after the child's religious path and to bring the child up in the Christian faith. The primary responsibility is to support your godchild in living a Christian life in fellowship with the church. You are promising to do all in your power to support your godchild in their life in Christ.

The Godparent needs to be a practicing member of the faith into which the child is being dedicated and they must be sufficiently well-connected to the family of the child to be able to exercise the responsibilities they undertake in the dedication service. Godparents must have their eyes fixed on the Lord, believing that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and must be prepared to share his/her belief with their godchild.

The Godparents should help make sure the godchild gets to church regularly. Setting an example by regular church attendance and by being willing to take your godchild with you to worship is a great witness and a great way to keep your oath as a godparent.

Some parents expect Godparents to be gift-givers — buying gifts for birthdays, Christmas, etc. When the early church saw the need for godparents, it never intended them to be used in this way. The greatest gift that a godparent can give to a child is love, prayers and their continuous presence as a Christian model of faith.

GODPARENTS SHOULD:

- Pray for your godchild regularly.*
- Set an example of Christian living.*
- Help your godchild to grow in the Faith of God, Son and the Holy Spirit.*
- Give every encouragement to follow Christ and fight against evil.*

THE PROCESS

Baby Dedication is held every 3rd Sunday at 11:00 am. Any exceptions must be approved by the Pastor.

Dedication forms are available in the church office and on our website at www.gracememorialbaptist.org. Please submit your form to the Church Secretary. Parents and Godparents must arrive at 10:45 am on the day your infant is scheduled to be dedicated. All other family members must arrive no later than 10:55 am to take advantage of reserved seating. Late arrivals must find seating in the general congregation.

Members of your party sitting in the reserved section must be willing to stay through the entire Worship Service. If they have to leave early we suggest they find seating within the general congregation. Parents, please advise those participating in the dedication of your infant, that they will be asked to come forward and stand before the congregation.

For registration and information please contact:

Church Office: 410-563-2355

Web-Site Address: <http://www.gracememorialbaptist.org>

Facebook Address: Grace Memorial Baltimore, Maryland

Twitter Address: GraceMemorial1

Rev. Marshall L. Barnes, Pastor