

Child Blessing and Child Dedication



At Sanctus Church, we offer two options for families to demonstrate their desire for their children to be blessed and committed to Christian faith: **Child Blessing** and **Child Dedication**.

Child Blessing Service

An in-home child blessing service is available to any family regardless of church background, religious background, marital situation, church attendance, or any other factor. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them", and he blessed them. We would love to have a pastor bless your child and pray prayers of blessing over your family at your home with your family and friends.

Child Dedication Service

Child Dedication is similar to Child Blessing but has some key differences that mean not every family qualifies for it. A Sanctus Church Child Dedication is an in-service churchwide event where parents and the congregation participate in commitment statements to a Christian lifestyle and upbringing of the child. A prayer of blessing for the child also happens. Because of the commitment component in child dedication, we expect the following of families who wish to participate:

1. Regular family church attendance for at least the previous six months at Sanctus Church. We expect families dedicated at Sanctus to attend Sanctus as their "home church".
2. Both parents need to be able to affirm that they have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In the case of single parents, the parent with primary custody must be able to affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
3. Parents need to be legally married in order to live out a Biblical view of marriage in the household. Alternatively, a single Christian parent needs to have primary custody.

We recognize that not everyone can meet these requirements for various reasons. If Sanctus Church can assist by marrying you, helping you attend regularly, or helping one spouse meet Jesus, we would LOVE to help in these ways. If not – please consider the in-home Child Blessing service – families who do it, love it!

Child Blessing and Child Dedication



What Child Dedication Is and Is Not

Child dedication IS...

Public Commitment and Affirmation of Parents Faith

We will publicly ask parents to affirm their commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We will publicly ask parents to affirm their intention to raise their child in a household of Christian faith.

Church Commitment

We ask that you regularly attend Sanctus Church and we will ask our congregation to commit to coming alongside you in raising your child.

Blessing

We will pray a prayer of blessing over all children who are dedicated.

Child Dedication is a special occasion for parents and the child. Over the centuries Christians have had a variety of practices when it comes to committing children to the Lord. Because different churches have different practices, there is often confusion around this matter.

Child dedication IS NOT...

Salvation

Having your child dedicated to the Lord does not guarantee that they will one day make a decision to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. This is a decision they will hopefully make as you raise them in a household of faith.

Baptism

At Sanctus Church, we practice "believer's baptism" which means we only baptize people once they've made a decision to follow Jesus Christ. Child dedication is different than baptism.