



# *Baby Dedication*

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## **Celebration & Confirmation**

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### *Procedure Manual*

- Guidelines
- Resource Material
- Forms
- Instructions for Parents

### **Metropolitan Church of God**

2575 Columbiana Road  
Birmingham, AL 35216  
205-822-7615



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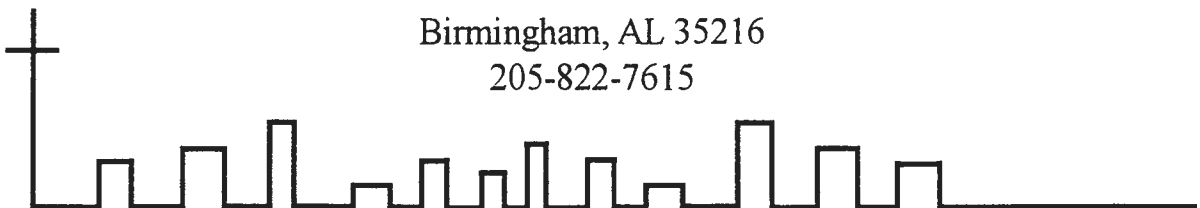
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# BABY DEDICATION

## — Celebration & Confirmation —

The dedication of a baby is a time of *celebration*. The parents and church celebrate:

- **An answer to prayer** - “For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him” (1 Sam. 1:27).
- **A treasure from the Lord** - “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord” (Ps. 127:3).

Baby dedication highlights the beauty of birth and stimulates a thanksgiving spirit of love, joy, and peace.

The dedication of a baby is also a time of *confirmation*. The parents and church confirm:

- **The place of children in the Kingdom of God** - “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).
- **The responsibility to guide children** - “Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

Baby dedication pinpoints the duty of the church to nurture children, guide them in the faith and bless them in the name of the Lord.

This manual offers a complete program — including letters, forms and certificates — for baby dedication in the church. May you be effective in this vital area of ministry.

Raymond F. Culpepper  
Senior Pastor

# BABY DEDICATION

— *Fruit, Form and Force* —

## FRUIT OF BABY DEDICATION

We view the dedication of babies as a threefold opportunity:

1. **To establish** in the minds of parents and parishioners the expectations and responsibilities of babies growing up in the church “in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).
2. **To strengthen** the posture of the church as a partner with parents in guiding children in developing a balanced life with Christ at the center.
3. **To formalize** an outreach potential by inviting grandparents, family members, relatives and friends to attend the dedication.

## FORM OF BABY DEDICATION

1. When a baby is born to individuals who attend Metro a congratulatory letter will be mailed to them. The letter will convey thanksgiving for God’s gift and encouragement for the parents. The Director of Pastoral Care Ministries will do a follow-up call one month after the birth and discuss dedication of the baby.
2. Baby dedication will be conducted on the second Sunday of each month in the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services. A private dedication service can also be arranged with a member of the staff.
3. A form is to be completed by the parents providing information about the family, baby, grandparents and relatives. The goal is to have this form in the office one month in

advance of the dedication.

4. Once a date has been set for a baby to be dedicated a packet will be mailed to parents. The packet will contain the procedure that will be followed, a supply of invitations to be mailed to grandparents, relatives and friends and a form requesting information about the baby and individuals who will be attending.
5. The Director of Pastoral Care will mail a pre-service letter and then call the parents the week before the dedication and review the process. An announcement will be featured in the bulletin listing names of parents and babies.

#### **FORCE OF BABY DEDICATION**

1. The Minister of Music will arrange for the dedication in the program with special music and lighting. The house lights will be lowered and spots will focus on the Pastor and family. The names of the parents and baby will be projected on the screen for the congregation to view.
2. A section will be reserved for the family and friends. The Director of Pastoral Care will be in charge of this. Blue or pink ribbons will be used to designate the reserved pews.
3. The Pastor will request a response from the congregation and parents, dedicate the baby, and pray. A Certificate of Dedication and Bible will be presented to the parents. The Director of Pastoral Care will provide the Pastor with all the needed information.
4. A letter from the Pastor and church will be mailed to the parents the following week.
5. The names of the parents and baby will be listed in Connection. If possible, pictures of the dedication ceremony will also be featured in Connection.

# **BABY DEDICATION**

## **— Instructions to Parents —**

### **BEFORE DEDICATION SUNDAY**

1. Carefully study the material in this packet regarding baby dedication.
2. Make sure the enclosed Information Form has been completed and given to the Director of Pastoral Care.
3. Send an invitation to grandparents, relatives and friends. A supply of invitations are included in the packet. If you need additional copies please call the Church Office.
4. Contact each person who was sent an invitation one week before the dedication and confirm their attendance. Provide directions to the church.
5. Inform the Director of Pastoral Care of the number of people who will be attending with you.
6. Call the Director of Pastoral Care at the Church Office if you have questions or if you need additional information.

### **DEDICATION SUNDAY**

1. A section in the auditorium will be reserved for you. Please arrive 10 minutes early to be seated so the remaining space can be released. Tell an usher your baby is to be dedicated and he will direct you to the reserved section.
2. The Pastor will call you and your parents to the platform. Grandparents should stand on each side of the parents. In some instances brothers and sisters will also be invited

to stand with you. This will depend on the number of babies and the size of families.

3. The pastor will ask for a response of support for the baby from the congregation and from you. He will then hold the baby for the act of dedication. The prayer of dedication will follow.
4. You will be presented with a Certificate of Dedication and a Bible.
5. A picture of the baby and parents with the Pastor will be taken.
6. Following the dedication you will return to the reserved section.

# BABY DEDICATION

## — Information Form —

Name of Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Baby \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be dedicated \_\_\_\_\_

Service \_\_\_\_\_ 9 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 11 a.m.

Father's Parents (list name and address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Parents (list name and address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions/Testimony \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# BABY DEDICATION

— Information Card for Pastor —

## *Baby Dedication*

— Information Card —

Date \_\_\_\_\_  9 a.m.  11 a.m.

Baby \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  Boy  Girl

Guests \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# BABY DEDICATION

— *Invitation to Grandparents, Relatives and Friends* —  
*A Supply of Cards Are Enclosed*

*You Are Invited  
to the Dedication  
of Our Baby*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Baby's Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent's Names*

*Date/Time* \_\_\_\_\_

*Metropolitan Church of God*  
2575 Columbiana Road  
Birmingham, Alabama 35216  
205/822-7615

# BABY DEDICATION

— *Certificate of Dedication and Blessing* —

## Certificate of Dedication

This Certifies That

\_\_\_\_\_

Born on \_\_\_\_\_

At \_\_\_\_\_

Was brought to the House of the Lord by

\_\_\_\_\_

## Presented for Dedication and Blessing

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

At \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Minister

# BIRTH OF BABY

## — Congratulatory Letter to Parents —

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The Metro family rejoices with you in the birth of your (son/daughter),  
(name).

Children are a gift from the Lord. They bring joy, happiness and excitement to the home.

They also bring responsibility to you and responsibility to the church. We want you to know that we joyfully accept this responsibility and will surround \_\_\_\_\_ with love, guidance and affirmation.

We pledge that we will always be available to assist and support you. Please remember this pledge and always feel free to ask for help.

Now, I want to pray for \_\_\_\_\_,

*“Lord, we place \_\_\_\_\_ before You. Surround him/her with Your grace and glory. Protect him/her and nurture him/her by Your Spirit. Give the parents wisdom, patience and faith to guide \_\_\_\_\_ in following You and in living a life of faith. Amen.”*

May God bless and guide you,

Raymond F. Culpepper  
Senior Pastor

# BABY DEDICATION

— *Pre-Service Letter to Parents* —

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The Metro family rejoices with you on the gift of a baby from the Lord. This is indeed a wonderful manifestation of love.

Arrangements have been made for your baby to be dedicated this Sunday morning, \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. service.

A special section has been reserved for you and those who will be attending with you. Please arrive 10 minutes early so you can be seated and the remaining seats released.

Also, review the instructions in the packet that was given to you. The order of dedication is listed.

The church staff and members of Metro are committed to providing models and ministries that will guide your child in experiencing an abundant life in Christ Jesus.

We all look forward to the dedication of \_\_\_\_\_.

In Christian faith and love,

Raymond F. Culpepper  
Senior Pastor

# BABY DEDICATION

— *Post-Service Letter to Parents* —

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I believe God's hand of love and guidance is upon your child. I believe this because of His Word and because we prayed in faith according to His Word.

Now, the Metro family pledges to do their part in providing an environment for nurture and care. We always want to be there to assist you and support your child.

I want to encourage you to do your part in this partnership by bringing your child to church, by teaching God's Word faithfully, and by always showing love and tenderness.

We have many ministries to support you and to guide your child. Please take advantage of them.

It is my prayer that God will cover you with wisdom and knowledge in leading your child in knowing His will.

In hope and love,

Raymond F. Culpepper  
Senior Pastor

# BABY DEDICATION

## — Ceremony —

Today is baby dedication. Jesus said, “Let the children come to Me.” Why did He make this statement? Because:

- Babies are a part of the **FAMILY**.
- Babies are a part of the **FAITH**.
- Babies are a part of the **FUTURE**.

We recognize God’s love for babies and that they are a gift from Him. We also recognize that as parents, and as a body of believers, we have a responsibility to:

- **Protect** them and *give* them **LEADERSHIP**.
- **Provide** for them and *guide* them in **LEARNING**.
- **Prepare** them spiritually and *guard* them in **LIVING**.

### To Congregation:

We have a responsibility to “be the church” that will guide (name of baby) in understanding the nature of God, the will of God, and the path that God wants him/her to walk in. I ask you to show your willingness to do this by affirming the following promises:

1. Do you **promise** to support these parents and this child by living a life of purity and purpose?

*The congregation shall answer: We do.*

2. Do you **promise** to provide an environment where the spiritual nature of (name of baby) may grow and unfold in the fullness of Christ?

*The congregation shall answer: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do.*

**To Parents:**

**Minister takes baby in his arms.**

Parents, this is a time to renew your faith and commitment to God and to His Lordship in the life of your family. I ask you to affirm your allegiance by responding to the following promises:

1. Do you solemnly **promise** to *love* and *lead* \_\_\_\_\_ (name of baby) \_\_\_\_\_ in the ways of the Lord by modeling Christlikeness?

*The parents shall answer: We do.*

2. Do you **promise** to *guide* and *train* him/her in developing the Christlife through faithfulness in fellowship with God and the people of His church?

*The parents shall answer: We do.*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

Lord we bring \_\_\_\_\_ (name of baby) \_\_\_\_\_ to You. We place him/her in Your care.

- Build a hedge around him/her
- Beautify his/her life with Your glory.
- Begin Your work of grace in his/her life
- Bestow gifts of goodness and spiritual growth.

We brought \_\_\_\_\_ (name of baby) \_\_\_\_\_ to You for Your blessing, now make Your face shine upon him/her and be gracious to him/her.

We dedicate this baby in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

# BABY DEDICATION

— *Notes* —

About Parents . . .

About Grandparents . . .

About birth of baby . . .

Scriptural passages/illustrations . . .

# BABY DEDICATION

— *Checklist* —

— *Subjects* —

— *Notes* —

- Congratulatory letter mailed to parents.
- Personal call to parents about the dedication of the baby.
- A date for baby dedication is set.
- Baby Dedication Packet mailed to parents.
- Information Form received and reviewed.
- Pre-service letter is mailed.
- Pre-service telephone call is made.
- Certificate of Dedication, Bible, and information for bulletin are prepared.
- Information Card for Pastor is completed.
- Music, lighting, information slide, ribbons for pews are made ready.
- Camera and film are secured.
- Program rehearsed with all parties involved.
- Post-service letter is mailed.
- Material and pictures are prepared for Connection.



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## **Celebration & Confirmation**

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*Parent's Manual*  
Information & Guidelines

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Baby dedication pinpoints the duty of the church to nurture children, guide them in the faith and bless them in the name of the Lord.

Baby dedication is also a time to recognize the privilege of parenthood and for parents to dedicate themselves as Christian parents before the Lord. This indeed is a beautiful and blessed occasion.

This manual will provide you with information about the occasion and the procedure that will be followed.

Raymond F. Culpepper  
Senior Pastor

# BABY DEDICATION

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Baby \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be dedicated \_\_\_\_\_

Service \_\_\_\_\_ 9 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ 11 a.m.

Father's Parents (list name and address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Parents (list name and address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions/Testimony \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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*Baby's Name*

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*Parent's Names*

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On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

At \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Minister

# BABY DEDICATION

## — Checklist for Parents —

### — Subjects —

- Agreed with the Director of Pastoral Care on the month the baby will be dedicated (second Sunday of each month).
- Studied the Parent's Manual — Information and Guidelines.
- Completed Information Form and sent it to the Director of Pastoral Care.
- Mailed Invitation Cards to grandparents, relatives and friends.
- Determined dedication attire for baby.
- Called invited guests to confirm their attendance.
- Notified Director of Pastoral Care of the number (and names if possible) of the individuals who will attend.
- Arranged for pictures/video to be made of the dedication.
- Prepared spiritually to accept the pastoral challenge to be parents of love, faith and integrity.

### — Notes —