

GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE PHILIPPINES
CHILD DEDICATION GUIDELINES

Dear Parents,

We are so excited that you have decided to have your child dedicated at Grace Christian Church of the Philippines (GCCP). A Child Dedication Service is a service where the parents promise to raise their child with Christian principles, train up the child in the things of the Lord, and to commit their child to God's care. This follows the example of Jesus, who was dedicated in the Temple as a child.

It should be clarified that this is NOT Child Baptism. The child does not automatically become a Christian. When the child grows up, he/she must still make a personal decision to trust Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.

Since this dedication service is a promise by the parents to raise their child with Christian principles according to the Bible, this child dedication should also be a recommitment on the part of the parent to walk more closely with the Lord. For how can parents teach their child the things of the Lord, if they are not exemplifying it in their own lives? That is why we require that the parents of the child demonstrate this by regularly attending one of the worship services of the church as a show of their commitment to walk with the Lord.

Here are some guidelines and general information as it relates to a Grace Christian Church of the Philippines Child Dedication Service.

- 1) The church will hold a rolling application for child dedication services throughout the year. What this means is that if you want to dedicate your child, please submit the application to the church as soon as possible. The church will assign a date for the dedication in one of the services based on internal scheduling and guidelines. Please note that we will try our best to accommodate your request for preference of dates, but the church usually hold child dedication services once every three months. The dates will NOT be announced in the church bulletin.
- 2) Both parents must agree to their child's dedication at GCCP and at least one of the parents must be a Christian who has been regularly attending a GCCP worship service for at least 6 months PRIOR to the application for child dedication. In extreme circumstances, exception to this rule may be made with the approval of the senior/resident pastor and the church board.
- 3) The church will also accept children whose parents have moved permanently abroad if at least one of the parents had previously regularly attended GCCP for two (2) years was a member of the church. They must be attending a church and submit a recommendation letter from the pastor testifying to the spiritual lives and their regular attendance. However, GCCP highly recommends that they have their child dedicated at that church because it is the church the child will grow up in.

- 4) The church will also accept children if their grandparents is regularly attending GCCP one (1) year PRIOR to their application AND their parents regularly attend another church. In addition to the application, they must submit a recommendation letter from the pastor testifying to the spiritual lives and their regular attendance. However, GCCP highly recommends that they have their child dedicated at that church because it is the church the child will grow up in.
- 5) The parents must meet with a GCCP pastor for interview and final approval.
- 6) Slots for child dedication in each worship service are limited and will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis with completed application. Completed applications include all supporting documentation and the interview with a pastor. There is no “reservation” of time slots in a particular service.
- 7) Please be on time to the dedication service which is usually at the BEGINNING of the worship service. If you miss the dedication service, the child will be rescheduled for the next child dedication service a few months later.
- 8) Only children dedicated at the church service will receive an official Grace Christian Church of the Philippines Child Dedication certificate. Please note, the church does not keep copies of the original certificate and therefore cannot reissue certificates if the original is lost or damaged. Please safeguard the certificate when given to you.
- 9) If you would like to request one of the church pastors to pray for your child at a “kiddie” party, it is a personal request between your family and the pastor and the church WILL NOT issue an official Grace Christian Church of the Philippines Child Dedication certificate.
- 10) You may invite your immediate family members (i.e. child’s grandparents, child’s brothers and sisters) onto the stage to accompany you and your child during the dedication service.
- 11) During the dedication service, the pastor will ask you some questions and then present the child with the meaning of their name, a verse for the child, and then pray a special prayer for blessing and dedication on the child.
- 12) Because, the dedication is a Christ-honoring, solemn occasion, please wear appropriate clothing as you will be on stage (i.e. no jeans, shorts, sandals, mini-skirts, etc.).
- 13) Parents and family members are requested to stay throughout the entire worship service. However, if you child is unable to stay for the entire service, they along with a guardian may want to join our Junior Church Sunday School program or

use the nursery facilities. Please refrain from taking family pictures outside the church until AFTER the worship service is completed.

14) When you submit a signed and completed child dedication form, please attached the following two (2) things: a certified copy of your child's birth certificate and a certified copy of your marriage certificate. The application is not considered complete until both documents are submitted.

15) Please keep in mind that a child dedication can happen at any time and does not necessarily have to coincide with the birthday of the child. It happens when the parents are spiritually ready to present themselves and the child before the Lord and before the church congregation.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the church. Congratulations to you for receiving God's blessing of a child! May you as parents have the wisdom and guidance to raise up children who will grow up to be men and women of the Lord.

GCCP CHILD DEDICATION FORM

Date of Application: _____

Name of Child: (Eng) _____ (Chi) _____

Date of Birth: _____ Birthplace: _____

Name of Father: (Eng) _____ (Chi) _____

Name of Mother: (Eng) _____ (Chi) _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Home Address: _____

Tel. No: (H) _____ (O) _____

Preferred Date for Child Dedication _____

First Option for Time: Sat 6:00P _____ Sun 7:30A _____
Sun 9:00A _____ Sun 11:00A _____

Second Option for Time: Sat 6:00P _____ Sun 7:30A _____
Sun 9:00A _____ Sun 11:00A _____

(Please Note: Your preferred date and time is NOT a guarantee of the actual date and time of the dedication. It is only to help the church in our scheduling. Final date and time will be determined by the church and made known to the parents.)

Submitted a copy of Child's Birth Certificate: YES _____ NO _____

If Not, the Reason why? _____

Submitted a copy of Parents' Marriage Certificate: YES _____ NO _____

If Not, the Reason why? _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AGREEMENT OF GUIDELINES

We, as parents, acknowledge that God gave us this precious gift and that we are responsible in guiding this child in the things of the Lord. We will affirm that we have completed this form as accurately and have read and will abide by Grace Christian Church's Guidelines for Child Dedication.

Signed by Child's Father

Date: _____

Signed by Child's Mother

Date: _____

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

FINAL SCHEDULED DATE & TIME FOR DEDICATION: _____