



菲律濱靈惠基督教會  
**Grace Christian Church**  
OF THE PHILIPPINES



# Child Dedication

APPLICATION PACKET

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## Dear Parents

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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 Child Dedication 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.

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.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the church.

# Guidelines & Policies

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## A. Schedule of Child Dedication Service

GCCP 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 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 holds child dedication services once every three months.

Slots for child dedication when scheduled in a 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 an interview with a GCCP pastor. There is no “reservation” of time slots in a particular service.

Please keep in mind that 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.

## B. Eligibility

GCCP accepts children to be dedicated if at least one of the following conditions are met:

1. At least one parent must be a Christian who has been regularly attending a GCCP worship service for at least 6 months PRIOR to the application. In extreme circumstances, exceptions to this rule may be made with the approval of the senior/resident pastor and the church board.
2. If the parents have moved permanently abroad, at least one of the parents must have previously regularly attended GCCP for two (2) years and was a member of the church in good standing just prior to their migration. They must be regularly attending a protestant church prior to application. A recommendation letter from the pastor testifying to the parents' spiritual lives and regular church attendance is also required. However, GCCP highly recommends that they have their child dedicated at that church because it is the church the child will grow up in.
3. At least one of the grandparents is regularly attending GCCP one (1) year PRIOR to application. The parents must be regularly attending another protestant church. A recommendation letter from the pastor testifying to their spiritual lives and regular attendance is also required. However, GCCP highly recommends that they have their child dedicated at that church because it is the church the child will grow up in.

### **C. Application Requirements**

1. Both parents must agree to their child's dedication at GCCP.
2. The application is not considered complete until the following documents are submitted:
  - Duly accomplished Child Dedication Application Form.
  - Certified copy of child(ren)'s PSA birth certificate.
  - Certified copy of parent's marriage certificate.
  - If eligible through section B-2 or B-3, a recommendation letter from the home church pastor testifying to the parents' spiritual lives and regular church attendance is also required.
3. Parents must meet with a GCCP pastor for an interview and final approval.

### **D. Child Dedication Scheduled in a Worship Service**

1. The dedication service is usually scheduled at the BEGINNING of the worship service. Please be at the venue on time. If you miss the dedication service, the child will be rescheduled for the next child dedication service a few months later.
2. Immediate family members (i.e. child's grandparents, child's brothers and sisters) may be invited onto the stage to accompany you and your child(ren) during the dedication service.
3. During the dedication service, the pastor will ask some questions and then present the child with the meaning of their name and a Bible verse for the child, and then pray a special prayer for blessing and dedication on the child.
4. 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.).
5. Parents and family members attending the dedication service are requested to stay throughout the entire worship service. However, if your 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.
6. Please refrain from taking family pictures outside the church until AFTER the worship service is completed.

### **E. Off-site Child Dedication or Requesting for a GCCP Pastor to Pray for Your Child During a Family Event**

If you would like to request one of the GCCP pastors to pray for your child at a children's party or other family events, it is considered a personal request between your family and the pastor. GCCP will NOT issue an official Grace Christian Church of the Philippines Child Dedication certificate.

## **F. Child Dedication Certificates**

Only children dedicated at the church will receive an official GCCP 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.

# ADDENDUM

## Child Dedication Protocol During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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### A. Government and Church Guidelines

GCCP will follow all guidelines as set forth by the Philippine Government's Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Emerging Infectious Diseases, the City of Quezon City, and Barangay Apolonio Samson.

### B. Church Guidelines

It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their family and guests are fully aware and compliant with all church's rules and guidelines.

### C. Guest List and Testing

- Depending on the alert level in Quezon City on the day of the child dedication, a maximum number of guests are allowed to attend the event at GCCP.

Alert Level	No. of Allowed Persons
Level 5	--
Level 4	30 pax
Level 3	50 pax
Level 2	80 pax
Level 1	100 pax

*Subject to IATF and LGU guidelines*

- Parents must submit a complete list of those attending the child dedication physically five (5) days prior to the date of dedication. Individuals not on the submitted list will not be allowed inside the church nor will they be allowed to stand-by near the church gate. Once inside, the individual is expected to remain inside the church for the duration of the ceremony. If they leave the church grounds, they will not be allowed back inside.
- As circumstances warrant, GCCP may require all guests to undergo an antigen swab test on the day of the child dedication.

#### **D. Contact Tracing, Face Coverings, and Social Distancing**

- Those on the official Guest List will be asked to fill out a contact tracing form and will be required to wear protective face coverings. Those coming will also be asked to maintain social distancing for at least one (1) meter, unless they are a family unit living together.
- The wearing of face masks is compulsory upon entering the church. If you do not wear face coverings, you will not be allowed inside the church. Additional face coverings (i.e. face shields) are optional.
- Providing face coverings for the attending party is the responsibility of the parents.
- During the ceremony, the parents, child(ren) and Officiating Pastor will not be wearing face coverings based on the comfort level of the family.

#### **E. Other Matters**

Some aspects of the normal child dedication program will be modified. Please discuss these modifications with the church's Member Care Ministry Staff or Officiating Pastor.

#### **F. Disclaimer**

GCCP has taken all necessary health precautionary measures by enforcing protocol guidelines as required by the DOH. Participants and guests should come to the church with full knowledge of the risks involved in contracting the Covid-19 virus and will not hold GCCP or her officers liable for their personal health issues.

*Updated & Revised 2/11/2022*





# APPLICATION FORM FOR CHILD DEDICATION

*IMPORTANT: Information should be as it appears on the child's birth certificate.*

Please check:	<input type="checkbox"/> Child's parent(s) is/are active GCCP members or regular attenders <input type="checkbox"/> Child's parent(s) was/were active GCCP members who moved abroad <input type="checkbox"/> Child's grandparent(s) is/are active GCCP members or regular attenders	
Name of Child	<i>Given Name, Middle Name, Last Name</i>	
Date of Birth		
Place of Birth		
Father's Name		
Mother's Maiden Name		
Contact No.	<i>Mobile</i>	<i>Home</i>
Email		
Home Address	<i>Street, Barangay</i>	
	<i>City</i>	<i>Province / State</i>
	<i>Zip Code</i>	<i>Country</i>
Preferred Date and Time of Child Dedication  <i>Please Note: Your preferred date and time is NOT guaranteed. Final schedule will be determined by the church.</i>	Date 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun 8:30am <input type="checkbox"/> Sun 11:00am <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	Date 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Sun 8:30am <input type="checkbox"/> Sun 11:00am <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<b>TO BE FILLED OUT BY GCCP STAFF</b>		
Documents Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Child's Birth Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Parents' Marriage Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor's Recommendation Letter (if applicable)	Approved by	Final Schedule of Dedication
Remarks		

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AGREEMENT**

to the Guidelines and Policies for Child Dedication at GCCP

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We affirm GCCP's belief that children are a gift from the Lord and acknowledge that as parents, we are responsible in guiding this child in the things of the Lord.

We have read, understood, and fully agree to the Grace Christian Church of the Philippines' Guidelines and Policies for Child Dedication.

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Signature over Name of Child's Father / Date

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Signature over Name of Child's Mother / Date