



Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Children's Ministry, Baby Dedication
Held every 5th Sunday (beginning May 2011)

Baby Dedication Class is a prerequisite for parents who desire to have their child blessed at Pilgrim Rest.

I Samuel 1:20-28

So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "because I have asked for him from the Lord". Now came Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband. "not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever...now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, "O my Lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lived he shall be lent to the Lord." So they worshipped the Lord there.

We believe that what Hannah does here in scripture is what the Lord would have all parents do with their children. As parents, we have much to do with our children's destiny. We must give them over to God's purposes and continue to train them to become fruitful in godly living. We as parents must commit to raise godly children and understand that failure to do so can result in greater ungodliness. Parents must dedicate your children to the Lord and remember that they are a gift and inheritance from Him.

Baby Dedication Classes & Ceremony are designed to:

- Thank God for the gift of life
- Present the child to God and commit his life to the Lord
- Commit to raise child with Christian principles and foundation
- Speak identity into the child's life

- To submit that the Lord must lead us through the process of raising this life

Who are baby dedications for?

- All children are welcome. Generally children between the ages of birth-3 years participate in baby dedication ceremonies.
- Parents new to Christian faith

What's the difference between baby dedication and baptism?

We do not baptize babies. We believe that baptism is a symbol of our confession of faith after we have made a decision to receive Christ as our Savior. Baby dedications are a purposeful tradition much as the one Hannah did where we present a child to God and ask His blessing over that child's life. In this ceremony we commit not only our child but our parenting to Him to be used in a way that brings glory to God.

What if I am a single parent?

God is love. Single parents are welcome. Single parents who desire to attend our baby dedication class and participate in the ceremony must commit to living a life that adheres to godly principles and is committed to Him.

What should I expect at the ceremony?

Baby dedications are wonderful time in the life of a family and church community. The dedication itself is not a long process. It is however for most parents the first faith tradition exercised as a family. Babies will be blessed, consecrated and prayed for by the shepherd of Pilgrim Rest, Bishop Alexis A. Thomas. Bishop Thomas will also give parents and the church family a charge of living godly lives as a witness and testimony to the babies being dedicated testimony.

Who should attend this ceremony?

This ceremony is something to be enjoyed by the entire family. We invite you extend an invitation to as many of your family members as you desire however, immediate family should be in attendance (as much as possible). This includes: grandparents (paternal and maternal), great-

grandparents (paternal and maternal when possible) godparents, immediate aunts and uncles, and siblings of the baby.

★Remember that the entire church body of Pilgrim Rest is in support of you and celebrate with you in the birth and dedication of your child. God commands you as parents to train up your child in a way that teaches who He is. ★

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.