

Dear Parents,

Thank you for inquiring about having your child dedicated. Praise the Lord for the precious gift of life that God has given you. God bless you for your dedication and commitment to your child, and to seeing your child dedicated to an anointing for service.

The following information and request form should assist you in your final decision to have your child dedicated. Please return the completed form to the church office so we can arrange a date for this special and important occasion.

Upon returning this form we will:

1. Contact you by phone to confirm receiving it and discuss with you any questions you might have.
2. Book the date of the dedication.
3. Discuss arrangements for the dedicating pastor to meet with you.

If you have filled out this form in the past, we ask that you only fill out the Dedication Options starting on page 7.

I pray that this will be a blessed time as you come before the Lord and dedicate your child to Him.

In Christ's love,
River of Life Leadership Team

RIVER OF LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH CHILD DEDICATION REQUEST FORM

WHAT DEDICATION SHOULD MEAN TO PARENTS

Our church has two sacraments: The Lord's Supper and Baptism. These are central in Christian experience. But an observance of almost equal importance is Dedication because in the case of children born to believing parent, dedication normally precedes Baptism or participating in the Lord's Supper.

The dedication of children is a practice that has its origin in the Holy Scriptures. It is an expression of love for God and is a declaration on the part of the parent(s) to be a godly influence in the life of the child (Genesis 22:12; I Samuel 1:27-28; Matthew 19:13-15).

PARENTS TAKE VOWS

It is the parents who assume the responsibility for Christian upbringing and for this reason the parents take vows. In presenting your child for Christian dedication at River of Life Church you are declaring your concern for the spiritual well being of this child and you are expressing your purpose to lead him/her in the way of Jesus Christ.

THE CONGREGATION TAKES A VOW

Furthermore, your child also becomes a special responsibility of the body of Christ. It is our responsibility to receive your child into the nurture of this church and to do our part in leading him/her to a Jesus-centred life in every way possible.

FAMILIES AT CHURCH

It is important for us to know that you, as a parent(s), are taking the time to understand the vows, that you are committed to the vows and that you have a plan for carrying them out. Carrying out the obligation of the vows involves instructing your child in the faith into which he or she has been dedicated and also includes family attendance at church on a consistent basis.

Our duty before God is to allow you to take vows that you are sincerely prepared to keep, to the best of your ability and with God's help, after the dedication ritual is passed.

GUIDELINES

As you prepare to complete the request form, the child dedication guidelines of ROL are:

1. Membership at ROL on the part of the parent(s) is not essential to the dedication of a child but regular attendance for a minimum of three months is.
2. At least one parent should be a follower of Christ, having trusted Jesus Christ for salvation.
3. Dedications will be scheduled by the Pastoral Care Coordinator after receiving the request form.
4. Two options are available venues for dedications:
 - a. In the Cell Group setting by the cell group leader in which the family is attending; *or*
 - b. In the sanctuary during a Sunday morning service by a pastor assigned to dedication.
5. Meet with the dedicating pastor before the scheduled dedication time.

QUESTIONNAIRE

To assist us in preparing you for the dedication ceremony, we request that you respond to the following questions. Please return the completed request form to the ROL Office marked ATTENTION: PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR. (Please use additional paper where necessary and print or type your responses).

1. Why do you desire to present your child for dedication?

2. Have you as a parent(s) committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted him for salvation?

Mother: Yes _____ No _____ Father: Yes _____ No _____

Please give a brief statement of your spiritual journey/journeys explaining how, when and why you came to know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and what your life is like since you became a Christian. (Use additional paper).

3. What does it mean to you as a parent(s) to be a godly influence in the life of your child and/or what does it mean for you as a parent(s) to lead your child in the way of Jesus Christ?

4. How long have you been attending ROL?

Father: _____ Mother: _____

I consider my attendance:

Father: Regular _____ or Occasional _____

Mother: Regular _____ or Occasional _____

5. Have you completed our membership class?

Father: Yes _____ No _____ Not yet but I plan to _____

Mother: Yes _____ No _____ Not yet but I plan to _____

6. Are you part of a Community Group?

Yes _____ No _____ I/We would like to be _____

7. Following are the dedication vows you will be asked to take before God and in the presence of witnesses. (Please indicate by placing a check mark in the space provided beside the vows you are prepared to take).

a. Do you confess your faith in God your heavenly Father; in Jesus Christ your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit your Teacher and Guide?

Father: _____ I will

Mother: _____ I will

b. Will you bring up your children in the knowledge and love of God, teaching them the truths and duties of the Christian faith?

Father: _____ I will, God being my Helper

Mother: _____ I will, God being my Helper

c. Will you do these things helping him/her to confirm by his/her own free will and actions the dedication we make today?

Father: _____ I will, God being my Helper

Mother: _____ I will, God being my Helper

DEDICATION OPTIONS

(Circle the option of your preference).

Option A – Community Group**

Location: Community Group setting
Time: At convenience of group and leader
Person Dedicating: Community Group leader

Option B – at ROL Church

Location: Sanctuary during service

_____ Sunday during 9:00 am

_____ Sunday during 10:30 am

_____ Sunday during 1:30 pm

** We provide this option to allow more time to give more personal attention to each individual being dedicated.

DEDICATING PASTORS

If you have a special relationship with a specific ROL pastor we will do our best to accommodate your request. Do you have a preference?

If so, who: _____

DATE

Recognizing that parents may wish to invite family and friends we do our best to accommodate preferred date. If you require a specific date please indicate, otherwise we will arrange the most convenient date possible.

Preferred date: _____

No preferred date: _____

PREPARING FOR THE DEDICATION

1. Return form.
2. Expect a call from the ROL office to confirm receipt of form.
3. Staff will process request form. (Confirm dedication pastor, time, and place.)
4. Dedicating pastor will meet with parents to discuss the dedication celebration.
5. Invite your family and friends to this special event.
6. Arrive early so that we know you are there and ready to go.
7. Family members are invited to come forward with you.
8. Taking photos or videotape of the celebration is permitted.

PERSONAL INFORMATION (For use in communication and preparation of dedication certificate only)

Your child's full name	
Date of birth	
Place of birth	
Parent (s) name (s) Mother	
Father	
Address	
Telephone number	(H)
	(W)
Email address	
Siblings name (s)	

Please complete this form and return it to the Church Office marked:

ATTENTION: PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR