Saint John Baptist Church

CHILD DEDICATION • REQUEST & PARENT COVENANT

1397 Penniman Road
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
(757) 229-0759
williamsburgsjbc.org

At Saint John Baptist Church, parents and guardians may present their children to the Lord in a service of dedication, as Hannah presented Samuel (1 Samuel 1:27–28) and Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:22). Please complete every section, initial the covenant, sign, and return this form to the Church Secretary at **secretary@williamsburgsjbc.org** (copy **clerk@williamsburgsjbc.org**) or the Church Office at least **three weeks** before the Sunday you request. The Pastor will contact you to schedule a brief meeting before the dedication.

SECTION 1: ABOUT THE CHILD

Child's full legal name (first, middle, last)

Name the child is called

Pronunciation of the name, as the Pastor should say it

Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

Place of birth (city, state)

Is the child's name final? ◯ Yes ◯ Not yet — we will confirm with the Church Secretary

SECTION 2: PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Parent / Guardian 1

Full name

Relationship to child (mother, father, guardian, grandparent, etc.)

Street address

City, state, ZIP

Phone

Email

Relationship to SJBC (choose one)

◯ Member
◯ Regular attendee
◯ Visitor / family of a member

If a member elsewhere, name of home church

Parent / Guardian 2 (if applicable)

Full name

Relationship to child (mother, father, guardian, grandparent, etc.)

Street address

City, state, ZIP

Phone

Email

Relationship to SJBC (choose one)

◯ Member
◯ Regular attendee
◯ Visitor / family of a member

If a member elsewhere, name of home church

Children of members and of families who worship with us regularly are welcome to be dedicated. If neither parent is a member, the Pastor will speak with the family before a date is set.

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SECTION 3: FAMILY OF THE CHILD

Brother or sister — full name	Age	Brother or sister — full name	Age

Grandparents

Grandparent — Parent/Guardian 1's family

Grandparent — Parent/Guardian 1's family

Grandparent — Parent/Guardian 2's family

Grandparent — Parent/Guardian 2's family

Great-grandparents or other family to be recognized during the service (optional)

SECTION 4: GODPARENTS / SPIRITUAL SPONSORS

Many families ask trusted Christian adults to stand with them as godparents or spiritual sponsors — people who promise to pray for the child and encourage the family in the faith. Godparents are optional, and up to four may stand with the family.

Full name	Relationship to family	Phone	Home church (if not SJBC)

SECTION 5: CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Print each name exactly as it should appear on the dedication certificate. If the child's name is not yet final or differs from Section 1, write it here as it should be printed.

Child's name as printed on the certificate

Date of birth as printed

Parents' / guardians' names as printed (e.g. Mr. and Mrs. ..., or each full name)

Godparents' / sponsors' names as printed

Grandparents' names as printed (leave blank to omit grandparents from the certificate)

Extra copies requested

Notes for the certificate (spelling, suffixes such as Jr. or III, etc.)

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SECTION 6: THE DEDICATION SERVICE

First-choice Sunday (MM/DD/YYYY)

Second-choice Sunday (MM/DD/YYYY)

About how many guests will attend?

May the church photograph or livestream the dedication? ◯ Yes ◯ No

May we print the child's name in the bulletin and on social media? ◯ Yes ◯ No

Requests: a favorite scripture or hymn, a family member to read, or anything the Pastor should know

SECTION 7: WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT CHILD DEDICATION

As a Baptist church, we hold that baptism is for believers who have personally repented and professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that it is by immersion (Constitution, Article II). Child dedication is not baptism and does not make a child a Christian or a member of the church. It is a public act of worship in which parents give thanks to God for the gift of their child, give the child back to the Lord, and promise before God and the congregation to raise the child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). The church, in turn, promises to pray for and support the family. Our hope is that this child will one day come to faith in Christ for themselves and follow Him in believer's baptism.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." — Mark 10:14 (KJV)

On the Day of the Dedication

- Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Morning Worship (10:30 AM) and let an usher know you are the dedication family.
- Parents, godparents, and family to be recognized will be seated near the front and called forward by the Pastor.
- The Pastor will lead the family in the dedication vows and pray over the child, and the congregation will pledge its support to the family.
- The dedication certificate is presented to the family at the close of the service.
- Family photographs may be taken at the altar after the benediction.

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SECTION 8: PARENT / GUARDIAN COVENANT

Please read each promise and place your initials beside it. Each parent or guardian who will stand at the altar should initial.

	P/G 1	P/G 2
1. I give thanks to God for this child and acknowledge that every child is a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3).		
2. I will strive, by God's grace, to live a Christian life before this child, in word and in example.		
3. I will teach this child the Word of God at home, in the daily course of life (Deuteronomy 6:6–7).		
4. I will bring this child to worship, Sunday School, and the ministries of the church, so the child grows up within the family of faith.		
5. I will pray for and with this child, and point the child toward a personal faith in Jesus Christ and believer's baptism when the child is ready.		
6. I understand that dedication is not baptism or church membership, and that the Pastor will meet with us before the service.		

SECTION 9: SIGNATURES

By signing, I affirm that the information on this form is true and that I make the promises above freely, before God and this congregation.

Parent / Guardian 1 signature

Click to sign digitally, or sign by hand after printing

Printed name

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Parent / Guardian 2 signature

Click to sign digitally, or sign by hand after printing

Printed name

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

FOR CHURCH OFFICE USE ONLY

CHURCH SECRETARY — RECEIVES AND SCHEDULES

Date received

Received by

Meeting with Pastor (date)

Dedication date confirmed

Officiating minister

Secretary initials

☐ Certificate prepared ☐ Listed in bulletin / program ☐ Copy sent to Church Clerk

CHURCH CLERK — RECORDS (CONSTITUTION, ART. V, SEC. 8)

Date recorded in the church book of record

Book of record page

Clerk initials

Pastor approval

Click to sign digitally

Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

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