

Infant Baptism and Dedication Frequently Asked Questions

How often do Infant Baptisms and Dedications occur?

They happen every other month at the Herndon, Waterford, and Lake Mary campuses.

How many Parent Orientations do you have a year?

There are four Parent Orientations throughout the year. You only need to attend one. You must attend a Parent Orientation in order to sign up for an Infant Baptism & Dedication.

Can I sign up for an Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony without attending a Parent Orientation?

No. Attending a Parent Orientation will equip you with the information you need to make an informed decision about an Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony at Summit.

Who attends a Parent Orientation?

Whoever intends to stand onstage during the Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony, as guardians of the child, are required to attend a Parent Orientation. However, others, such as godparents are also welcome to the class.

What if I'm still deciding about an Infant Baptism and Dedication Ceremony? Can I still attend a Parent Orientation?

Yes. You can attend and then wait as long as you want to sign up for a ceremony. There are only four orientations per year and six ceremonies, so please plan accordingly.

If I've already attended a Parent Orientation in the past with an older child, do I need to attend again for an additional child?

No. You will be directed to a different form on the Summit website. You would fill out information regarding the previous child. You would then receive the information as to when the sign-ups open for the next Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony.

What are the Parent Orientation and Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony dates?

All the dates that are known are listed here on the website. New dates are added as the Summit calendar is updated.

Does attending a Parent Orientation Class guarantee I get the Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony date and service time I want?

No, attending the Parent Orientation Class gives access to sign up for a ceremony. Once you have attended a Parent Orientation Class you will be notified as to when the sign-ups for the next Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony will open. Due to stage and time constraints, there's a limited number of baptisms/dedications at each service. Once that number is met, the sign-ups for that service close.

Do I have to attend Summit in order to have my child baptized or dedicated here?

Summit doesn't require that you attend church here, however, the idea of baptizing or dedicating your child is to publicly announce your commitment to raise your child to know Christ. We believe being part of a church family and attending church regularly supports you doing this. Additionally, the congregation is asked to stand with you in committing their prayer and support to you and your family as your child grows. Being part of a church family fosters those relationships. If you attend a church elsewhere, we encourage you to ask about baptisms or dedications there. If you don't have a church home, Summit would love to be that for you or help you find a church.

My child is over a year old. Can he/she still be baptized/dedicated?

Yes. Children up to four years can participate in an Infant Baptism & Dedication Ceremony.

Is there a cost?

No

Why does Summit offer both infant baptism and infant dedication?

Summit offers both infant baptisms and dedications. Each family decides which is best for them during the Parent Orientation Class. You can read more about each below and feel free to bring any questions you have to your Parent Orientation Class.

Infant Baptism: Infant baptism doesn't presume or guarantee a child's personal salvation. Infant baptism stresses the position of the child within the covenant community. We believe that the Bible teaches that baptism is the New Testament sign of God's covenant with his people, just as circumcision was the sign of his covenant with his people in the Old Testament (Colossians 2:11-12). It is the hope that the child will later confess their faith in Christ, thus confirming what was signified by his or her earlier baptism. There is no mandate forbidding the baptism of children or infants. On the contrary, since God directed circumcision for eight-day-old infants (Genesis 17), and baptism was given in the spirit of circumcision, Scripture appears to allow it. There is additional biblical support in Jesus Christ's command to his disciples that they not refrain from bringing children and infants to him (Luke 18:15-16).

Infant Dedication: Since baptism is intended to symbolize union with Christ and spiritual regeneration, some parents prefer to wait until their children confess Christ as Lord before applying the sign of regeneration in believer's baptism (Romans 10:9; 6:36; Titus 3:5). Parents who prefer believer's baptism for their children present their infants to the Lord through the act of infant dedication. Infant dedication recognizes that their children are born into a community of faith and signifies a parental commitment to raise those children to know and embrace that at an early age. This stresses the role of the parents in raising the child in the tradition of the Christian faith and the instruction that will quickly usher the child into the household of faith.

Still have questions?

Email your campus' coordinator:

Herndon Nursery and Preschool Coordinator: Laura Hunt (lhunt@summitconnect.org)

Lake Mary Children's Ministry Coordinator: Brooke Shoopman

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Waterford Children's Ministry Director: Doris Herrero (dherrero@summitconnect.org)