

Baptisms at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish

We welcome and congratulate those families wishing to pass on the faith to their children through the sacrament of Baptism.

According to Church law, “for an infant to be baptized, there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion.” (*Canon 868*) and the baptism of an infant is to take place “in the parish church of the parents.” (*Canon 857*) To satisfy Church law, Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish requires that the parents of a child to be baptized be registered members of the parish and demonstrate a habit of attendance at Mass.

In order to schedule your child’s Baptism at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, you must have:

1. Had an initial meeting with one of our priests.
2. Met with Deacon Don to begin completing the Baptism Registration Form and discuss the baptism preparation process.
3. Provided a copy of your child’s birth certificate.
4. Submitted the completed and signed Baptism Registration Form;
5. Submitted sponsor forms from the godparents, and;
6. Participated in a Baptism Preparation Workshop within the past 5 years (either here or at another Catholic parish.)

Once these requirements are fulfilled, the Baptism may be scheduled in consultation with Deacon Don.

Meetings. Please submit a Request for Baptism form or call the Parish Office (203-235-6381) and ask to meet with a priest regarding a baptism. It is preferred that both parents meet with the priest.

Once you have met with a priest, you will then need to meet with Deacon Don. That meeting will be for approximately 25 minutes and will likely be scheduled during regular parish office hours. Exceptions may be made if both parents work outside the home during the day.

The Baptism Registration Form. At the meeting with Deacon Don, you will begin to fill out the Baptism Registration Form. He will send the form home with you to be completed. Both parents must sign and date the form before returning it to Deacon Don. Also at the meeting, Deacon Don will discuss the issue of godparent selection with you and answer any questions you may have regarding baptism.

Godparents & Sponsor Forms. Please carefully read the *Pastoral Guidelines for Godparents* (on the reverse side) before selecting godparents for your child. There are obligations of godparents which may affect your decision. The prospective godparents will need to provide sponsor forms indicating their good standing before the Baptism can be scheduled.

The Baptism Preparation Workshop. The workshop for parents and godparents will explore the meaning of the sacrament and familiarize you with how Baptism is celebrated today. The workshop is held monthly and begins promptly at 7:00pm in the Community Center at the Holy Angels campus on Main Street in South Meriden, and concludes approximately 90 minutes later. If you have attended a Baptism Preparation Workshop (even at another parish) within the past five years, you do NOT need to repeat the session. We understand the necessity of bringing nursing newborns to the workshop, but we prefer that you do not bring older children who need more attention.

NOTE: You must meet with Deacon Don BEFORE attending the workshop.

To register for the next available Baptism Workshop, please call the parish office. (203-235-6381)

The Baptism. Baptisms at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish generally take place during Mass on Sundays: 1st Sunday - the 10:00am Mass at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel campus; 2nd Sunday - the 10:30am Mass at the Holy Angels campus; 3rd Sunday - the 11:15am Mass at the St. Joseph campus. There can be no baptisms scheduled during the six weeks of Lent.

Pastoral Guidelines for Godparents

Together with the parents, the godparents are to present the infant at Baptism and help to lead the child to a Christian way of life. This includes helping the child to faithfully fulfill the obligations connected with our Catholic faith. (Canon 872)

Requirements. Required to have at least ONE, but no more than two godparents. (If one, may be of either sex. If two, must be one male and one female.) (Canon 873)

Godparents must:

1. be at least 16 years of age,
2. have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist,
3. not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized, and
4. be in good standing with the Catholic Church. (*Attending mass regularly; if married, in a valid Church marriage; if not married, not co-habiting; etc.*)

Each prospective godparent is required to submit a sponsor form, confirming their good standing – thus demonstrating their ability to serve as a godparent. Prospective godparents may download a sponsor form from our parish website (<http://www.olqoa.org/baptism/>)and should read it, prayerfully considering their status before completing and signing the form. This sponsor form must be provided to Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish BEFORE the Baptism can be scheduled. We recommend bringing the sponsor form(s) to the Baptism workshop.

Christian Witness. A non-Catholic of another Christian denomination who is actively practicing his or her faith may serve as a Christian Witness, providing there is also a godparent - who is Catholic. (Canon 874) A prospective Christian Witness is required to provide a letter of good standing from his or her church. Anyone baptized as a Catholic may NOT serve as a Christian Witness.

Use of a Proxy. If a godparent is unable to attend the Baptism, you may ask any Christian that you choose to stand in as “proxy” for the godparent. The name of the godparent, not the proxy, will appear on the Baptism Certificate.