

Baptisms at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish

(...during the time of COVID-19 restrictions.)

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/discussion with our Pastor.
2. Provided a copy of your child’s birth certificate.
3. Submitted the completed and signed Baptism Registration Form;
4. Submitted sponsor forms from the godparents, and;
5. 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.

Your first step. Please submit a Request for Baptism form or call the Parish Office (203-235-6381) and ask to meet/talk with a priest regarding a baptism. Once you have met/talked with a priest, he will advise Deacon Don to contact you to begin preparations for baptism.

The Baptism Registration Form. Deacon Don will provide you with a Baptism Registration Form to complete. Both parents must sign and date the form before returning it to Deacon Don.

Godparent Forms. Deacon Don will also provide you with Godparent Forms and information concerning your selection of godparent(s). Please carefully read the information before selecting godparents for your child. There are obligations of godparents which may affect your decision. The prospective godparents will need to provide completed and signed Godparent Forms indicating their good standing before the Baptism can be scheduled.

The Baptism Preparation Workshop. The workshop for parents (and godparents, if possible) will explore the meaning of the sacrament and familiarize you with how Baptism is celebrated today. The workshop is held, as needed, via Zoom Meetings and Deacon Don will contact you to set a date and time for the 80-90 minute workshop. 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.

The Baptism. Due to COVID-19, baptisms at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish take place on a Sunday at one of our three campuses AFTER the church has been properly cleaned and sanitized following regular Mass. When your preparations for baptism are complete, Deacon Don will contact you to set the date, time, and location for the baptism. Please note: 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 Godparent Form, confirming their good standing – thus demonstrating their ability to serve as a godparent. Prospective godparents may download a form from our parish website (<http://www.olqoa.org/baptism/>)and should read it, prayerfully considering their status before completing and signing the form. The completed and signed Godparent Form must be provided to Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish BEFORE the Baptism can be scheduled.

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.