

# 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. The gift of faith is the greatest gift you can give your child!

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*) Many times you will have been a member of the parish as you were growing up in your parents’ household. When you move out on your own and establish a household, you need to register with the parish in your own right. If your household has not been receiving mailings and a supply of contribution envelopes from the parish office, it’s likely that you’re not enrolled in the parish. If that’s the case, we invite you to contact the office (203-235-6381) to register – and, of course, come worship with us at Mass on the weekends.

**In order to schedule your child’s Baptism at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, you must first: Contact the Parish Office.** Please call the Parish Office (203-235-6381) and let them know you are interested in having a Baptism at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish.

**Prepare for the Baptism.** Once you have contacted the office, the deacon will contact you and will send you a packet of information to begin the process.

The packet will include:

***The Baptism Registration Form.*** You should print out the form, complete it, then date and sign it before returning it to the deacon. Both parents must sign and date the form before returning it. If at all possible, please attach either a photocopy or photo of your child’s birth certificate.

***Godparent Form – and information about godparents.*** You should print out the form and the information about godparents – and read both of them thoroughly before selecting godparents for your child. There are obligations of godparents which may affect your decision. At that point, you should forward the form to each prospective godparent and ask them to completely read the form, then prayerfully reflect on whether they are (1) qualified to be a godparent AND (2) willing to make a LIFELONG commitment. Keep in mind that while you may have TWO godparents (1 male & 1 female), only ONE is required for baptism. Once the prospective godparent has completed and signed their form, they should return it to the deacon, either directly or through you. The baptism cannot happen unless the deacon has received at least ONE completed and signed godparent form.

**The Baptism Preparation Workshop.** If you have NOT participated in a Baptism Preparation Workshop (even at another parish) within the past five years, you will need to do so. The workshop for parents and godparents will explore the history and meaning of the sacrament, familiarize you with how Baptism is celebrated today, and discuss the task you are signing up for: namely, raising your child in the faith. The deacon will work with you to schedule the baptism workshop.

**Once the above requirements have been fulfilled, the Baptism may be scheduled in consultation with the deacon.**

# 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 godparent form from our parish website and should read it, prayerfully considering their status before completing and signing the form. This completed 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.

**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. (This is relatively common when a prospective godparent is in active military service.)