

Church of Our Lady of Lourdes



Congratulations! We are happy with you at the birth of your child. We congratulate you, and welcome your new baby. A new life born into the human family and into our world should always be a joyful and happy event, an event that changes people's lives, and changes them for the better. A new life gives promise, hope, and expectation that the world will become a better place to live in because of this new life. We share these hopes with you, but we want to do more. We want to do everything possible to make them come true.

Preparing for the Celebration of Baptism

According to the law of the Church the parents of a child who is to be baptized are to be suitably instructed on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attached to it. Certainly it is a timely opportunity for parents to review their own faith, especially regarding Baptism, and to consider the responsibility they have in handing that faith on to their children. Thus, no baptism will be administered at Our Lady of Lourdes until parents have met the obligation of attending a Baptism Preparation class. This class is held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Chapel at 7PM. Registration for the class is required. The following is a list of requirements for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

1. Parents must be registered members of the parish.
2. Pre-registration for the class is necessary
3. It is expected that both parents attend the class.
4. Before you ask anyone to sponsor your child make sure they are able to obtain an eligibility letter from the parish that they are registered in.
5. Visiting clergy (relatives or friends) are welcome to partake in the Celebration of Baptism, given the proper dispensation.

Any exceptions to the above must have the pastor's approval.



Let the little children
come to me....

Scheduling the Baptism

In making arrangements with the parish office, Parents may call during regular office hours (9:00 am to 12 Noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday). Information needed for our church records:

1. Baby's name
2. Date of birth
3. Father's name
4. Mother's maiden name
5. Names of sponsors

Baptism is celebrated every Sunday at 1:15 PM.

Stipends for Baptism

In thanksgiving for the gift of faith and the reception of a sacrament, it is customary to give an offering for the use of the Church. You may if you wish make a personal offering to the Priest or Deacon performing the ceremony.

Sponsors/Godparents

Great care should be taken in asking someone to be the sponsor of an infant about to be received into the Church. The following guidelines are intended to help you consider carefully and prayerfully why you are asking someone to be a sponsor and whom you will ask to accept this responsibility.

In choosing a sponsor for baptism the decision should be based on more than blood relationship or a good friendship.

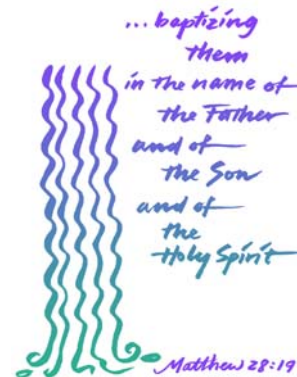
Church law requires at least ONE sponsor. However, it is customary to have two "godparents" (neither two men nor two women can serve together as godparents and permission for more than two will not be granted).

Godparents must be fully initiated Catholics (having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist). They must be at least sixteen (16) years of age and if they are married, they must have been validly married in the Catholic Church.

In addition they must be practicing Catholics (i.e. attending Mass, receiving the Sacraments and above all, providing good example of faith). Catholic godparents must meet these requirements— Church law does not permit any exceptions to these requirements even if another Catholic godparent already meets these standards. Catholic godparents, who are not registered parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, are required to submit a letter of eligibility from their parish at least two weeks prior to the celebration of Baptism.

A baptized person who belongs to another Christian Tradition may be a "witness" along with the one required Catholic sponsor.

Please save embarrassment for all concerned by NOT choosing a godparent who does not fulfill the above requirements.



Photography at the Ceremony

Please feel free to take pictures and/or video during the ceremony. The priests and deacons simply ask that you not obstruct the ceremony. The church is open to you after the celebration of Baptism for additional pictures.

Record of Baptism

You will receive a Certificate of Baptism on the day of your child's baptism. Your child's permanent record of Baptism will always be kept at Our Lady of Lourdes. Before your child enters Catholic School, Religious Education, Confirmation, Marriage, Religious life or Ordination, you will be asked for an updated copy of the Baptismal Certificate. It will always be issued from this parish. Don't hesitate to contact us for these copies as needed.

The decision to have your baby baptized must come only after serious reflection. Why? Because baptism does not end once the liturgy is over. Nor is baptism something which pertains to the child alone, you are involved.

Bringing your child to the baptismal font expresses your commitment to raise the him/her in the Christian faith. This faith needs to be awakened, strengthened and developed as the child matures. To present your child for baptism is to accept responsibility for the growth of that faith expressed when the Church baptizes.

