

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish

Baptism Guidelines for Infants and Young Children

Thank you for contacting Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish regarding the baptism of your child. The sacrament of Baptism is “the gateway to the sacraments and necessary for salvation. . . . Through baptism [we] are freed from sin, are reborn as children of God, and . . . are incorporated into the Church” (Can. 849). Baptism is the *first step* on our journey as members of the Body of Christ in the Catholic faith. Below are the guidelines necessary for infants and children *under age seven* to receive the sacrament. *For children age seven and older, contact the Faith Formation Office at the number listed below.*

Parents:

1. Parents must be registered, practicing members of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish.
2. Parents must complete the attached Baptismal Information form and submit it prior to scheduling the baptism.
3. Parents registered in another Catholic parish who wish to have their child baptized at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs must obtain a letter of permission from the pastor of the parish where they are registered and must present a valid reason as to why they wish to celebrate the sacrament here.
4. Parents are required to attend the one-hour Baptismal Preparation class which is held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month. Reservations are required. If the parents attended the preparation class within the last four years, they are exempt from retaking the class.
5. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month after the final morning Mass. A baptism date will not be scheduled until all paperwork is completed and returned to the parish.

Godparents:

1. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing, at least 16 years of age, and have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Parents cannot be their own child’s godparents.
2. Two godparents, one of each gender, are permitted.
3. Godparents who are not registered at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish must submit a Certificate of Eligibility from their home parish at least two weeks prior to the baptism date.
4. Godparents who are not from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish are not required to attend a Baptismal Preparation class at OLQM. They may attend the preparation program at their own parish, if more convenient.
5. A baptized, non-Catholic may serve as an official witness to the baptism in the place of *one* Catholic godparent. The non-Catholic witness should be an active and participating member of their own Christian community. The non-Catholic will be listed in the Sacramental Record as an “official witness” together with the Catholic godparent.
6. A proxy (stand in) may stand in the place of a godparent during the baptismal ceremony if the official godparent is unable to attend. The proxy’s name should be included on the Baptismal Information form.

For more information or to register for a Baptism, contact MaryEllen W. Smith, Director of Faith Formation/Office Manager, 941-755-1826 or me1wilsonsmith@olqm.net