

BAPTISM INFORMATION

Our Lady of Victory Church in Troy, NY – Our Lady of the Snow, Mission in Grafton, NY

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the birth of your baby! We're happy to help you bring your baby to the Sacrament of Baptism. This information sheet will answer most of your questions about planning for your child's upcoming Baptism here in Our Lady of Victory Parish and Our Lady of the Snow Mission Church.

Baptism begins a life-long journey of faith in Christ and His Church. By bringing your child Baptism, you are deciding to raise your child as a Catholic Christian who will know, love and serve Jesus Christ as Friend and Savior. You are committing yourselves to bringing up your child in our faith and eventually enrolling him/her in formal religious instruction in our parish's Faith Formation Program or in a parochial school. Your own example of faith and the creation of a happy Catholic home is critical to your child in these formative years. We hope that you are already formally enrolled in our parish, that you attend weekend Mass with us, and that you are living your life in a Christ-centered way. We also hope that you're connect to our parish community and are experiencing our support and fellowship.

1. PARENTS OF FIRST-BORNS

You will need to fill out an intake form to which can be completed by calling the Parish Office and dialing ext. 103 for our Baptism Coordinator. You can also submit this form online at www.OLVOLS.org/baptism or stop by the Parish Office. Our Baptism Coordinator will then contact you to being the process. If you have already attended a Baptismal Preparation class for a previous child's baptism, you will not have to attend one now, however if this is your first-born, you have to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class. The Baptism Coordinator will tell you the date and time. It's better if the baby does not attend this session, however, if you cannot find a sitter, we can adjust.

- 2. PARENTS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY HAD AN INFANT BAPTIZED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH:** Call our Parish Office and speak to our receptionist who will fill out the intake form with you over the phone. Our Baptism Coordinator will then contact you to being the process. You will not have to attend a Baptismal Preparation Class if you already attended one at the time of your first child's baptism.

3. PARENTS WHO ARE UNMARRIED AND THOSE WHO ARE MARRIED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

We want to help you achieve your goal of baptizing your infant in our church. This is best done by meeting with the Pastor. Please contact Father Tom to begin the process. We're here to help you.

4. CHOOSING GODPARENTS

The godparents you choose should be role models of faith for your child. This should be the primary reason regarding choice of a godparent. A godparent must be baptized Catholic themselves and actively practice the Catholic faith. They must have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation and be at least 16 years of age. If they are married, their own marriage must have taken place in the Catholic Church by a priest or deacon. You should choose two godparents, one male and one female. It is not permitted to choose two males or two females. However, whole two godparents are usual, one Catholic godparent will suffice if you can't find another who can meet the above requirements.

5. WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN WITNESS?

After the Vatican Council, the Church changed its requirements that both godparents be Catholic. Current policy calls for one of the godparents to be Catholic and a second may be a baptized member of a Protestant denomination, call a “Christian witness.” Because they are not baptized, a Jew, Buddhist, or atheist may not stand as a “Christian witness.” A Protestant Christian witness may not be a former Catholic who has joined a Protestant church or is no longer affiliated with the Catholic Church.

Catholic godparents must each get to form signed by the pastor of the parish to which they belong. We’ve attached a copy of the form they need. This attests to the fact that they are active Catholics and belong to a Catholic community. If your prospective godparents have difficulty with this, they should call to speak to the pastor.

6. TIME AND PLACE

Baptisms are scheduled after the Sunday morning Mass on the first Sunday of the month. They take place in Our Lady of Victory Church or Our Lady of the Snow Mission Church. Often, several baptisms are scheduled for the same time. Each family and each child is treated individually no matter the number baptized.

An infant baptism can take place during one of the weekend Masses. This more public baptism inspires our congregation and allows them to participate in your special day. If you choose this option, speak to the pastor.

There is no fee for any of the Sacraments or services of the Catholic Church. However, it is traditional to offer a small offering for the parish at the time of Baptism.

7. OLDER CHILDREN

If your child is not an infant, we are happy to baptize them too! Children who are 7 years or older must attend preparation classes before their Baptism takes place. They have to know about Christ and his way of life to some degree before being baptized. This is called the “Rite of Christian Initiation of Children” which requires attendance at classes where they learn fundamental prayers and basic doctrines of our faith. This length of this preparation depends upon the learning speed of the individual child.

God bless you and thank you for bringing your child to the waters of Baptism, and to a lifelong journey of faith! We welcome you and your family. Our Lady of Victory Church and Our Lady of the Snow Mission are happy, faith-filled communities which are ready to welcome young families and little ones. We look forward to you being with us in the days ahead!

Father Thomas Morrette, Pastor

Deacon Brian Lewis and Deacon Willis Wolfe, Associates

Patty Gutch, Baptism Coordinator, BaptismOLVOLS@olvols.org, (518)273-7602 ext. 103

Our Lady of Victory Church, Troy

Our Lady of the Snow Mission Church, Grafton

Our Lady of Victory – Troy, NY
Our Lady of the Snow, Mission – Grafton, NY
Registration Form (PLEASE PRINT)

Parish Site: OLV ____ or OLS ____

Family Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Unlisted: Yes ____ No ____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

His E-mail: _____ Her Email: _____

Number of Adults in the home: _____

Adult

Name (First and Last)	Date of Birth	M or F	Marital Status
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Number of Children in the home: _____

Children

Name (First and Last)	Date of Birth	M or F
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please check the appropriate line:

____ I am new to the Parish ____ Change of address
____ Send me the Evangelist ____ Send me offertory envelopes

Sponsor Eligibility Form

Parish of Our Lady of Victory, Troy NY -- Our Lady of the Snow Mission, Grafton NY

The role of sponsor is an important one for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Today some may see the role as honorary, but the Church sees the sponsor, popularly called a godparent, as a fully-initiated Catholic who actively supports the newly Baptized or Confirmed by good example and instruction in the Christian life.

In order to be admitted to the role of sponsor, the law of the Church directs that a person must be designated specifically by the parents of the infant or the individual who is to be baptized or confirmed. To be a sponsor, a person must be a Catholic, at least sixteen years of age, and have already received the Sacraments of the Most Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. In addition, he or she must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and not be bound by a canonical penalty.

I, _____, declare that I have been chosen to act as a sponsor for _____, who is to receive the Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation on _____ at the Church of _____ in _____

In assuming this responsibility, I testify that:

- I am at least sixteen years of age.
- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- I am living a life in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church in faith and morals.

Understanding the role of sponsor as prescribed by the Church and aware of the obligations and responsibilities of this role, I attest that I am willing and able to accept the role of sponsor in the Catholic Church.

By my signature, I solemnly swear that I fulfill all of the requirements to be a sponsor as described above. I attest to the truth of this statement, so help me God.

Date

Designated Sponsor

Parish

Pastor/Delegate

Parish Seal:

Return to:
Our Lady of Victory Church
55 North Lake Ave.
Troy, NY 12180

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