



Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish

Church of St. Mary the Immaculate Conception
A Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hartford, CT

212 Elizabeth Street, Derby, CT 06418

203-735-3341

www.OLQAderby.org

Baptism Guidelines

Fr. Jeffrey Gubbiotti, Pastor

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The Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles

Sacrament of Infant Baptism- Guidelines

We, the members of Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish look forward to welcoming your child into the faith community. Baptism is the gateway to Christianity. When a person is baptized, he or she dies to a life without Christ and rises to a new life with Christ. That's why we say the newly baptized person is "born again". By accepting baptism, a person is proclaiming that birth in the natural world, with all of its limitations, pales in comparison to the promise of an abundant and eternal life that is found in the way and truth of Christ. Original sin, which includes the inclination to sin that we inherited as a result of our fallen nature, is removed and we are given the hope of freedom from sin that comes from being a child of God.

It becomes the work of the parents to consider thoughtfully to whom, among their family or friends, they would trust the responsibility of being a good and reliable guide for their child. In fact, during the rite of baptism the sponsors are asked, "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?"

This booklet is to assist you in choosing godparents in preparation of the celebration of your child's baptism.

We are certain that you want the celebration of your child's baptism to be as meaningful as possible. This necessitates that you have a basic understanding of the sacrament and of the rite itself. However, even more importantly, it will call for a level of commitment from you - to actively live your faith as Catholic Christians in our world today, which is no easy task! While baptism plants the seeds of faith, those seeds will only come to life if your child matures within an atmosphere of faith.

You are undertaking an awesome responsibility by bringing your child to the life-giving waters of baptism. Hopefully, it is a journey you will travel with your child into adulthood. We can only help you along the way - you are the first and most important teacher of your child. So, to help you be the best teacher you can be, we offer a few guidelines:

- Since baptism involves a family commitment to a faith community, we ask that you register with Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Parish prior to your child's baptism. A minimum of 3 months prior to the celebration is suggested.

- If you are new to our Parish (less than 3 months) a note from your previous parish that you were active parishioners will suffice.
- Registration implies that you will attend a weekend liturgy at OLQA on a regular basis.
- Our bishops require a parent information meeting prior to the baptism of children. At OLQA, first time parents meet with the deacon for this instruction. To avoid delaying baptism of their children, parents are encouraged to participate in these meetings during pregnancy.
- The parish celebrates the baptism of infants and children up to and including the age of five (5) years immediately following 10:30 a.m. Sunday mass on scheduled weekends. If exceptions are requested, they are at the discretion of the pastor. Children 3 years old and older will be scheduled at a special time apart from infants unless they are from the same family.
- If you are not married in the Catholic Church, we suggest that you make an appointment with the pastor to discuss the possibilities at this time.
 - the baptismal process requires at least one parent be a practicing Catholic
 - a single parent who is practicing the faith may have his or her child baptized
 - Both parents and even godparents are encouraged to attend the baptismal preparation class held in the church hall on the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year.

Godparenting

The role of godparents is to represent the larger church community while pledging continual support to the parents' Christian way of life. They should also be examples of true faith and exemplify faith-sharing in their daily lives.

- One sponsor/godparent is required
- One godparent must be a practicing Catholic
- There may be two godparents- one male and one female
- If there is a baptized practicing Christian who is not Catholic, they may serve as a Christian witness alongside the Catholic sponsor.
- Godparents are encouraged to attend the baptismal preparation class with the parents.

We look forward to working with you and supporting you at this important time in your family's life. To register for our infant baptism class, please call the church office in advance at 203-735-3341.

Qualifications for Godparenting

- You must be an active member of the Roman Catholic church. If you seek an exemption, please speak to the pastor.
- You must be fully initiated in the Catholic faith, that is, you must have been Baptized, received the Holy Eucharist, and completed your Confirmation.
- A fully initiated Catholic that is not practicing the faith or has left the church may not be a sponsor.
- If living with someone as husband and wife the marriage must be recognized in the church
- You must be mature enough to assume the responsibilities involved:
 - be at least 16 years of age
 - present the child to the church
 - renounce evil and profess the faith in the name of the child
 - represent the entire faith community
 - Sponsor must sign the godparent/sponsor affirmation and return it at least one week before the scheduled baptism.

Sponsors represented by proxy

- If either sponsor is unable to be present at the time of your child's baptism, he or she must be represented by a proxy.
- The proxy does not have to be Catholic, but must be a Christian.
- The sponsor of record must show proof that he or she is a Catholic in good standing by signing the godparents/sponsor affirmation.

Donations

You will be presented with an envelope for your free will offering to the church on the occasion of the baptism of your child. It may be given to the priest or deacon on the day of the baptism. This is never required but is always appreciated and is used to support the church.

Sacrament of Youth Baptism- Guidelines
ages 6 to 17 years

Children or youth seeking to be baptized are expected to enter into a faith formation program at their age level for a minimum of 6 months. This is prior to their special preparation for receiving baptism and/or full initiation into the Catholic Church.

To have your child enrolled in a religious education and faith formation program, to have your questions answered or for more information, please write the director of religious education at rel_ed@OLQAderby.org.

If you are aware of a need for special preparation for the baptism of your child, please call the pastor or deacon. This may require an interview with the child and parents to determine the child's readiness to receive the sacrament. After they reach the age of reason, they will need to be prepared to make their own profession of faith as well as move towards Communion (Holy Eucharist) and Confirmation to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church

Congratulations! We are excited to be a part of your child's life with Jesus Christ and the church through the sacrament of baptism!

Do not hesitate to call the office at 203-735-3341 if you have any questions.