

Go ... and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

Baptizing Your Baby

Information About Infant Baptisms

Congratulations on your child's upcoming Baptism in the Catholic Church. We, the parish community of Our Lady of Guadalupe, look forward to welcoming your child as a baptized member of our faith community. This pamphlet will aid in preparing for your child's Baptism.



Note: This pamphlet discusses infant Baptism (up to five years of age). For information about Baptism of those six years of age or older, please see the parish website, olglahabra.org, or call the Parish Office, (562) 691-0533.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

900 W. La Habra Blvd.

La Habra, CA 90631

olglahabra.org

(562) 691-0533

Getting Started: Registration

Having your child baptized at Our Lady of Guadalupe begins with completing a “Registration for Infant Baptism” form and submitting it to the Parish Office, along with a copy of the child’s birth certificate and the donation for the Baptism. The registration form is available in the Parish Office, or it can be printed from the parish website, olglahabra.org.

The required donation for infant Baptism normally is \$50 (payable at the time of registration). If making this donation would be a hardship, please note this to the receptionist at the time of registration so that we can discuss a waiver of all or part of the donation.

At the time of registration, parents and godparents will be scheduled for a Baptism preparation class (required for all infant Baptisms), and the Baptism itself will be scheduled. (Please note that there are no Baptisms during Lent except for health emergencies.)

Requirements for Godparents

Godparents are to help “the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations” of being a Christian (Code of Canon Law c. 872). Because godparents have this important role to play in their godchildren’s lives, each godparent must be –

1. 16 years of age or older,
2. A Catholic who has been baptized and received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist,
3. Practicing the Catholic faith, including regular attendance at Sunday Mass (except in case of illness or other good reason),
4. If married, married in the Catholic Church (Code of Canon Law c. 874).

Although we encourage parents to surround their children with as many persons as possible who will provide good role models of



Catholic Christian living, there can be only one or two official godparents. If there are two godparents, one must be a godfather and one a godmother (not two godfathers or two godmothers) (Code of Canon Law c. 873).

Baptism Preparation Class

Both parents and godparents are required to attend a Baptism preparation class (which will be scheduled at the time of registration). At the Baptism preparation class, the Baptism liturgy will be explained, responsibilities of the parents and godparents for the spiritual care of their children and godchildren will be discussed, and there will be further opportunity for questions. We hope you will arrange for a babysitter so that you can participate fully in the class.

Because godparents are expected to work with parents in nurturing the child in the Catholic Christian faith, we expect that parents and godparents ordinarily will attend the Baptism preparation class together. If one or another of the parents or godparents will not be able to attend the Baptism preparation class along with the others (for example, because a godparent lives far away in a different city or state), parents should discuss with the Parish Office how that person can complete the Baptism preparation class requirement in some other way.

Preparations in Advance of the Baptism Liturgy

White Garment. You should bring your child to the church on the day of the Baptism already dressed in a white garment. The white garment symbolizes that through Baptism, your child will be clothed in the risen Christ. White garments can take many forms, from ornate, flowing baptismal gowns to ordinary white dresses and suits – it is a matter of personal taste what type of white garment you choose for your child. In any case, we recommend that you keep your child’s white garment as a remembrance of his or her Baptism. Although parents sometimes like to have a separate bib-like garment for their child to wear after he or she is baptized, it is not necessary – the white clothes the child is already wearing will serve the symbolic purpose of the white garment. Also be aware that toward the beginning of the baptismal rite, your child’s chest will be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens; thus, it will be helpful if the garment can be loosened around the child’s throat to provide the priest or deacon access to his or her chest area.

Baptismal Candle. Each child receives a baptismal candle lit from the paschal candle (Easter candle) during the ceremony (a

godparent holds the candle on behalf of the child). This baptismal candle symbolizes that in Baptism, your child will be enlightened by Christ and become a light for the world. Many parents like to choose and purchase their own baptismal candle at one of the Catholic gift shops or through one of the Catholic supply companies on the internet. The godparents may also give the baptismal candle to the child as part of their involvement. The parish will provide baptismal candles for those who do not bring their own.

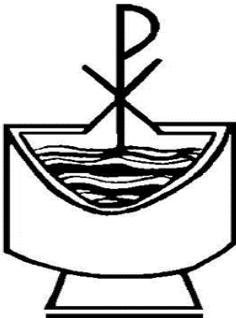
Day of the Baptism

On the day of the Baptism, parents and godparents should arrive at the church at least 30 minutes prior to the baptismal liturgy to check in and receive further instructions from the Baptism coordinator.

The Baptism coordinator also will be glad to show any members of your party who want to take photographs or videotape the baptismal liturgy where they may stand to do so (generally on either side of the church, in the side aisles or transepts, *never* in the center aisle or the sanctuary). Although we allow flash photography, we ask those taking photographs to be reverent and respectful of the liturgy and prayer. Video cameras may be used but without extra lights. Anyone who becomes obtrusive or disruptive as they take photographs or videos will be instructed to stop doing so. Further disruption may lead to that person being prohibited altogether from taking further photos or videos.

Baptismal Certificate and Record

Following the baptismal liturgy, the Baptism coordinator will give you the baptismal certificate for your child. Our parish staff will record your child's Baptism in our parish baptismal records.

 <p><i>What is Baptism? Baptism is the way out of the kingdom of death into life, the gateway to the Church, and the beginning of a lasting communion with God... It unites us with Jesus Christ, incorporates us into his redemptive death on the Cross, thereby freeing us from the power of Original Sin and all personal sins, and causes us to rise with him to a life without end.</i></p> <p><i>Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church ("YOUCAT") 194</i></p>
