Preparing to Celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism
Outline of the Baptism Ceremony

The following is an outline of the ceremony:

- **Reception of the Child**
  - Naming of the child
  - Statement of intentions by the parents and godparents
  - Claiming for Christ

- **Celebration of God’s Word and Preparation for Baptism**
  - Readings from the Holy Scriptures
  - Homily
  - Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful)
  - Litany of the Saints
  - Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism

- **Celebration of the Sacrament**
  - Blessing of the Baptismal Water
  - Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith
  - Baptism
  - Anointing with Chrism (Holy Oil)
  - Clothing in White Garment
  - Lighted Candle
  - Ephphetha (Prayer over Ears and Mouth)

- **Conclusion**
  - The Lord’s Prayer
  - Blessings

Preparing to Celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism

Ministry of Baptism Preparation Office
Contact Information

We hope you find the information in this booklet helpful, but feel free to contact us for any other inquiries. You are welcomed to visit our office located in the Parish School Administration Building.

**Mailing Address:** 11291 SW 142nd Avenue, Miami, Fl 33186

**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (Closed Weekends)

**Telephones:** Office: (305) 386-4894, Ext. 352 & Fax: (305) 386-6670

**Parish Website:** www.ololourdes.org

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
11291 S.W. 142nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33186
“Go, therefore, 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 I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

The Baptism Liturgy

The Church celebrates baptism as a joyful and prayerful experience for all who are involved. The celebration especially requires the active participation of the parents and godparents of the child who is being baptized. It is a sacred time that needs to be respected by all who are participating and witnessing.

**Dress:** While there is no specific dress code for those attending the baptism, modest conservative wear is suggested. As it is always appropriate and welcome for gentlemen who feel comfortable wearing a suit and tie and ladies to wear semi-casual clothing, business casual attire or equivalent thereto, is just as appropriate especially in South Florida.

**Decorum:** Due to the sacredness of the liturgy, it must reflect a respectful and reverent atmosphere at all times. Therefore, it is prohibited to talk, text or stream on cell phones or any digital devices while inside the church and during the liturgy. These devices must be turned off or placed in vibrate/silent mode. Additionally, it is not permitted to eat, drink, chew gum, smoke or use vaporizers, inside the church. Should the need arise for someone to engage in any of these activities, we kindly ask they quietly step outside the church, as to not distract from the celebration of the sacrament.

**Pictures and Video:** The family is welcome to take photos and video of the Baptism Liturgy for the purpose of recording this very special event in the life of the child to be baptized. We suggest that a member(s) of the family be designated to take the photos and video, and not the parents or godparents, whose role is to participate in the liturgy. Professional photographers hired by the family are welcome, but must be made aware that their work must not disturb the liturgy or interfere with other people’s right to enjoy the ceremony.
**Baptism Preparation Class for Parents and Godparents**

Parents and godparents must participate in the Baptism Preparation Class for Parents and Godparents. It may be taken at Our Lady of Lourdes or at another parish. However, **one parent must attend the preparation class at Our Lady of Lourdes**. Those attending the preparation class at another parish must bring a Certificate of Attendance (or equivalent) from the parish they took the class.

For those attending the preparation class at Our Lady of Lourdes, they are required to bring to class a copy of the book, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA)*, in their respective language. Married couples attending together may share one book.

- The *USCCA* may be purchased in English and Spanish at the parish gift shop (The Holy Boutique), the Office of Baptism or the Registration Desk before the class session begins.

The class is held separately in English and Spanish at least once a month and runs approximately 3½ hours. Schedule of classes are available at the Office of Baptism or on the parish website, www.ololourdes.org.

**Offering**

Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes normally make an offering of $150.00 on the occasion of the baptism.

As mentioned, the Sacrament of Baptism is to be celebrated together with other families of the parish community who are bringing their child to Christ. But there are rare circumstances when a private ceremony is necessary. Should this particular need arise, and all necessary requirements are met, parishioners normally make an offering of $300.00.

**Guests**

Relatives and family friends are always welcome to attend the baptism. On occasion some guests, especially those who are not familiar with Catholic practices, are not sure of the etiquette when attending the baptism. For this reason, a brief summary and outline of the Baptism Liturgy is included in this booklet to help familiarize and help everyone feel more comfortable when attending this special celebration.

---

**Introduction**

*The Greatest Day of Saint John XXIII’s Life*

On the day he was installed as Pope, someone commented to Angelo Roncalli that “today must be the greatest day of your life.” This man who would be known as Pope John XXIII replied, “No, the greatest day of my life was the day my mother and father carried me to the top of a steep hill to the village church where a grouchy old priest baptized me in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

Angelo Roncalli changed the world and the Church as he followed the call of his baptism. As Pope, St. John XXIII called for and began the Second Vatican Council.

---

**Celebrating Baptism at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church**

The Baptism Liturgy is a beautiful, joyful, and prayerful experience for all who are involved. It especially requires the active participation of the parents and godparents of the child who is being baptized. Baptisms are normally celebrated twice each month in English and twice each month in Spanish. The schedule varies depending on other activities in the parish. Parents should not make specific plans for the baptism until the date and time for the ceremony is finalized.

**Special Circumstances:** Baptism is celebrated as a community event. In very rare cases because of special circumstances that cannot be avoided, the baptism may be celebrated at a time other than the scheduled community celebration. Because our church facilities are very busy with masses, weddings, funerals, and other parish activities often booked months in advance, baptisms of this nature are kept to a minimum and approval is required before any special circumstance of this type can be scheduled.
As a parish, Our Lady of Lourdes takes its responsibility in the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism very seriously. The parish family is here to help you prepare in accord with the expectations of the Rite of Baptism for Children, the requirements by the Archdiocese of Miami and in keeping with the universal law of the Church. This booklet has been prepared for the specific purpose of facilitating the process for you, our registered parishioner. We rejoice that you have chosen your parish church for your baptism.

When the family is ready to begin the process of preparing for their child’s baptism, it will be necessary for one of the parents to pick up a Registration Packet from the Baptism Office or printing a copy from our parish website, [www.ololourdes.org](http://www.ololourdes.org) and clicking on the tab named Sacrament.

**Note to Non-Parishioners:** We will be happy to assist those who are not parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, and who desire to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, to contact the proper person to begin the preparation process at their home parish.

In order to enable the parents to carry out the proper preparation, we require a period of two to four months, consisting of the following:

**Active participation at Our Lady of Lourdes**

The *Church of Baptism* is the church where all subsequent sacraments are recorded. The *Church of Baptism* is then the “home” church for the person and is part of the life of the person from then on. As a rule, an adult is to be baptized in his or her proper parish church and an infant in the proper parish church of the parents. (*CC 857 §2*) The expectation of the church is that the *Church of Baptism* is where the family is actively participating in the faith.

- Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes should be registered with the parish and actively participating in the life of the parish community. Welcome Packages, that include the Parish Registration Form, are available at the Office of Baptism, the Parish Office and main entrances of the Church and Chapel.
- If the family of the child to be baptized is registered at a different parish and does not live within the parish boundaries of Our Lady of Lourdes, the parents must provide a Letter of Permission from the pastor of the parish in which they are registered or reside, granting permission for the child to be baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes.

**Required Documentation**

a. Birth Certificate of the child to be baptized (original or court certified copy);

b. Completed Baptism Registration Form;

c. Parental Approval, if applicable: The Archdiocese of Miami requires that both parents approve or concur with the baptism of the child. If the parents are not married to each other or one of the parents is not Catholic, then a notarized Letter of Permission to Baptize is required from the non-custodial parent or non-Catholic parent.

**Godparents**

The person being baptized must have at least one godparent. Usually, there are two godparents. If there are two godparents, one must be male, and the other female. The godparent must be a person whose Christian influence on the person to be baptized is strong and permanent.

The godparent must be at least 16 years of age, must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, be actively participating in the Catholic faith and if married, must be in accordance with the laws of the Catholic Church concerning marriage. Parents or step-parents of the child to be baptized cannot serve as godparents to the child.

If the godparent is registered at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, they complete the Godparent Form. If the godparent is registered at another parish, the parent or godparent will need to bring a Sponsor Certificate or a letter from the pastor of the godparent's parish stating that he or she meets the requirements to be a godparent to the child being baptized.

**Proxies**

In the event that a godparent cannot be present for the Celebration of the Baptism, the godparent may be represented by a proxy. The proxy must meet the same requirements of the godparent. When a proxy is used, the godparent needs to provide a letter designating the proxy by name.