



Baptismal Registration

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church
10 County Road, Tenafly, NJ 07670

(201) 568-0545

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish
10 County Road Tenafly, New Jersey 07670

Dear Parents,

We are delighted that you are seeking Baptism for your child and we wish to share in the joy of this celebration with you.

The baptism of a child, be it you're first or you're fourth, is a very special opportunity for you, the parents, to reaffirm your own faith. Our belief is that baptism begins initiation into the Church, the Eucharist (i.e., the Christian Community). To help you become fully aware of the significance of this joyful sacrament we have prepared the following preparatory steps for you:

Discuss and complete the material in this package.

Arrange a meeting with a priest or deacon to discuss and plan for the baptism of your child.

You may be asked to attend a Baptism preparation session regarding the Church's understanding of the Sacrament of baptism. Godparents are most welcome and are encouraged to attend with you.

Select godparents who are willing to assist you in raising your child in the Catholic faith.

Although the Church does not charge a fee for the Sacraments there is an Administrative Fee of \$100.00 to defray the cost of materials and facilities for baptism preparation. The administrative fee is due concurrent with return of the application package. It is also customary that a free will offering be made to the parish on the day of baptism.

In this package you will find:

1. Baptism Registration Form
2. Baptismal Application Check List
3. A brief statement about "Godparents".

We hope this statement will help you and the godparents to understand the commitment involved in Baptism.

Please return this completed package of materials to the Parish Office. A member of the Parish Team will be contacting you.

We look forward to sharing with you during this blessed and happy time.

In Christ,

The Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

BELONGING TO A PARISH COMMUNITY

Baptism initiates a person into the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. When baptism is celebrated in a church, the person is also initiated into that particular believing community. Belonging is important.

From the moment of birth, children seek to belong. To know the faces, voices and touch of those we call Mother and Father is essential in the development of a child. The need to belong is not limited to our family.

When a person comes seeking baptism into the life of the Church, he or she is asking to belong. Although through the Sacrament of Baptism one is initiated into life in Christ and the Church, there is another important way to belong.

We state our desire to belong to a parish community by formally registering in the parish. Registering is a rather simple act that brings responsibility and commitment. Belonging to a parish community is more detailed than filling out a registration form.

The registration form means that we want to gather each Sunday with our brothers and sisters in Christ to worship God and that we want to support the work of the Church.

In practical terms, the registration form allows the parish to know how many families live in the Parish and it allows us to contact families when deemed necessary. The Parish Roster is developed from the registration forms.

Supporting the work of the Church is the responsibility of all registered members. We support the work of our parish by sharing of our time, talents and resources. The parish encourages all registered families to use weekly offertory envelopes. This assists everyone and it allows to Church to provide a yearly receipt for income tax purposes.

Although a parish is busy with many activities, the primary work of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel and initiate new members. It is the work of the entire parish community (all registered members) to initiate new members.

When parents come seeking baptism for their child, it is only natural for the Church to inquire if the family is registered with the parish. Registration is a concrete sign that the family is involved in the work of the Church.

Baptismal Application Check List

- Completed Baptismal Application
- Administrative Fee
 - \$100.00 (Parishioner)
 - **\$250 (Non-Parishioner)**

Thinking About Baptism and Godparents

Having made the decision to bring your child to the Church for the sacrament of baptism, you are now faced with another important decision, the choice of your child's godparents.

In recent years, in many instances, the role of the godparent has been distorted and the choice of people to fill this role has been made for reasons other than those which ideally should dictate the choice. Only too often, we approach someone to be a godparent to satisfy a social or family obligation, to say "thank you" for past favors, because they expect it or for quite material benefits which may ensure for the child. At the risk of hurting someone's feelings, we should make our choice of godparent with the following in mind.

Inviting someone to be a godparent implies the following:

- A request by the parents for the assistance of the Christian community in general and the individual godparents in particular in raising their child in the Catholic faith.
- An admission by the parents of their awareness that they need this assistance.
- An affirmation of the faith of the individuals invited to be godparents and a challenge to them to witness their faith.
- A statement by the parents that they want their child to be positively influenced by the faith and lives of the people they have invited.
- A reminder to the entire community that it has a shared responsibility to support each of its members.

We suggest the following guidelines in making your choice of people to invite to be godparents:

1. The person chosen must be mature enough to carry out the responsibilities of godparent.
2. The person must be one of strong living faith: a good Catholic person who gives witness of his/her own life to Gospel values in a friendly way.
3. The person must be willing to profess his or her faith with the parents immediately prior to the actual pouring of baptismal water and should have no reservations about so doing.
4. The person should have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and be a practicing Catholic in all respects.
5. The person must be willing, in whatever way he or she can, to actively cooperate with the parents in helping to bring the child up as a Catholic Christian.

For obvious reasons, only a member of the Catholic Church may be a godparent, although a member of a non-Catholic Christian community may serve as a Christian Witness. When a member of the Eastern Orthodox faith is chosen together with a Catholic, that person also becomes a Godparent. The godparent is presumed to profess the faith in which the child is to be raised and members of non-Catholic churches, although good Christians, do not share sufficiently in our belief to be committed to rearing another in the Roman Catholic faith. The child must have at least one Roman Catholic godparent. Where the parents choose two godparents, one must be male and one female.

Unlike the old rite of baptism which required godparents to answer for the child in renunciation of Satan and profession of Christ, the rite currently in use reflects the reality of the situation more accurately in asking parents and godparents to renew their own rejection of evil and acceptance of Jesus that they may offer these to nurture the faith in/of the growing child from the seeds planted at Baptism.

In reflection upon the responsibilities of godparents, it becomes apparent that what is asked of the godparent is really the mission each of us as Christians accepted as a part of our own Baptism to nurture the faith and reach out to others in faith throughout our lives.

Baptismal Registration Form

Family Name						
Address					Postal Code	
e-mail				Home Telephone		
Father's Work Telephone				Mother's Work Telephone		
Child's Full Name						
Date of Birth:	Year		Month		Day	
Place of Birth:						
Father's Name:						
Mother's First Name and Maiden Name:						
Father's Religion:				Mother's Religion:		
Were you married in the Roman Catholic Church?	yes			no		
Were you married in another Christian Tradition?	yes			no		
Name of Church/city/state where married:						
Were you married in a Civil Ceremony?						
Please list names, ages and religion of other children:						
Name of Godparents:						
Are Godparents Catholic?	Yes		No			
Name of Christian Witness <i>(if a baptized Christian in another tradition):</i>						
Parish Use Only						
Date Returned		Package Complete	Check #	Cash	Rec'd by:	
Baptism Class				Baptism Date		