



MOTHER OF SORROWS PARISH

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

Dear Parents,

We are so excited to be part of your family's faith journey as you prepare for your child's baptism! Through this sacrament of initiation, your child, is reborn in water and the Spirit, and begins their Christian journey of holiness, in which they will receive other sacraments as well. It is always a joy for us to welcome a new member into the Church and to the parish community.

Here are a few things to know as you begin preparing for your child's baptism:

1. These guidelines are for infant baptism, defined as for children ages 6 and under. If you are inquiring about baptism for a child aged 7 or older, please contact us and we will provide details for that process.
2. At Mother of Sorrows Parish, the majority of baptisms are celebrated during the Mass at different weekend Mass times throughout the month. Baptism is significant not only for the individual, but for the whole community. This reflects the importance of the role of the entire People of God, represented through the parish community, in welcoming and receiving new members into the Church and walking together as a faith community. Once a month, usually on the fourth Sunday, baptisms take place following the 11:30AM Mass.
3. It is customary to select two Catholic godparents, one godfather and one godmother. It is also permissible to have only one godparent. At times parents ask if it is possible for a close non-Catholic Christian family member or friend to be a godparent. While a non-Catholic Christian is not able to be a godparent, it is permissible for a non-Catholic Christian to serve as a Christian witness at the baptism, alongside the Catholic godparent.
4. Baptism preparation sessions are held at Mother of Sorrows approximately every two months and last for one hour. Dates for upcoming baptism preparation classes will be included in the bulletin or can be obtained by calling the parish office (724) 733-8870.
5. Parents, godparents and the child are asked to arrive 30 minutes in advance of the Mass for which the baptism is scheduled. A few pews will be reserved for extended family. Family and friends should arrive by 10 minutes before the start of Mass. For baptisms taking place after the 11:30am Mass on a Sunday, please arrive by 12:15.
6. Out of respect for the Mass, which is the universal prayer of the Church, extended family members and friends are asked to refrain from moving around the Church in efforts to take photographs of the ceremony. A photo of the parents, godparents, child and presider will be taken right after Mass concludes, and is typically included in the parish bulletin and on the parish Facebook page as way of including the whole parish community in welcoming new members. You are welcome to take photos at that time as well, and to stay for a few more minutes to take pictures with extended family and friends if desired.

Next steps:

1. Complete and submit the parish baptism registration information at <https://forms.gle/fhHnVTQx3ieryWrA6>.
2. Obtain letters of eligibility for the Godparents.
 - a. Prospective godparents who are not parishioners of Mother of Sorrows Parish need to ask their parish to issue a letter of suitability and submit it to the parish office, attn: Ellen Mady. If the parish gives the letter directly to the godparents, you can email a scanned copy to emady@dioceseofgreensburg.org and bring the original with you on the day of the Baptism.
 - b. Prospective godparents who are parishioners here at Mother of Sorrows should call the office to verify their eligibility.
3. Attend baptism preparation. If you have attended baptism preparation in the last two years associated with the baptism of another child, you do not need to attend again, but can indicate on your registration when and where you last attended. If this is your first time, or if it has been longer than 2 years, you are expected to attend a baptism prep session at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled baptism.
4. Schedule the date for your baptism using our [Mother of Sorrows Baptism Sign-Up Sheet \(https://tinyurl.com/3uxdu6a2\)](https://tinyurl.com/3uxdu6a2).
5. If you have recently registered at Mother of Sorrows Parish but have not yet met with Monsignor Michael, please contact him at mbegolly@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-733-8870 ext. 7053 to complete your parish registration.
6. (If you are not a member of Mother of Sorrows Parish but are looking for the baptism to be celebrated here at Mother of Sorrows, we are happy to honor this request. Please provide a letter from the pastor of the parish where you are registered granting permission for the baptism to be celebrated here at Mother of Sorrows Parish.)

* Please ensure that all necessary documentation is submitted, and the required preparation completed, no later than 2 weeks prior to the date scheduled for the baptism.

If you have any other specific questions, contact me at emady@dioceseofgreensburg.org, or (724) 733-8870, and I am happy to help!

Blessings,

Ellen Mady
Pastoral Associate