

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

120 Prospect Street
Nutley, New Jersey 07110
973-667-2580
Fax: 973-667-0648

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the baptism of your child. Since this is such an important event in your child's life and also in the lives of your whole family, we want you to have a joyful experience both during the preparation period of this sacrament and the actual conferring of it. To help accomplish this, it is important that you adhere to the important directions listed below.

~Families are asked to be/become registered parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Please check with the parish office to see if you are registered. This should be done as soon as possible.

~It is **mandatory** that **first time** parents attend our Baptismal Preparation class. Once the good news of your pregnancy has been confirmed and the due day is established, it is time to begin this process.

~Choosing the date (3rd Sunday of the month except during lent) can be done when you have chosen your child's godparents and their letters of recommendations (sponsor forms) from the godparents' parishes have been given to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Please make sure your child's name appears on the sponsor form. A baptism date can only be set if the necessary paperwork is submitted to the parish. Guidelines for letters of recommendation are on pages 2 and 3 of this document.

We look forward to meeting you at the rectory to schedule the date of your child's baptism. Until then, we ask the Lord to abundantly bless you in your vital role as guardians of the new life that has been entrusted to you.

God's Blessing,

The Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

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Sponsors (Godparents Requirements)

Sponsors assist the parents in their responsibility and duty to raise their child in a Christian manner. They also represent the entire Christian community. Sponsors must:

1. Be baptized and confirmed Roman Catholics who attend Mass weekly and receive the Eucharist.
2. Be over 16 years of age.
3. Not be one of the parents.
4. Lead a good, moral life in keeping with the Church teaching and be a good role model for the child.
5. If married, had their marriage performed according to the rites of the Catholic Church.
6. Be a registered member of their own parish.
7. Cannot be a former Catholic.
8. Sponsors are required to obtain an eligibility certificate from their own parish. Be sure that the baby's name also appears on the form. Sponsors from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel must go to the rectory for approval. Please inform the secretary that you need a sponsor certificate when you arrive. Sponsors from other parishes must obtain a written form from their parish. We suggest the sponsors call their own rectory for details. Some parishes have a time requirement before they will issue certificate so do not delay in obtaining one.

If you have any questions concerning a potential sponsor's eligibility, call the rectory before asking him/her to be a sponsor.

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Christian Witness

As long as one sponsor is Roman Catholic, the other sponsor may be a non-Roman Catholic Christian. He or she must be baptized and fulfill the other requirements (2, 3 & 4) mentioned above. Since Canon (Church) Law requires only one sponsor, and as a sign of our progress toward Christian unity, a non-Catholic baptized Christian may serve as a Christian Witness.

A non-Christian (a non-baptized person: a member of the Jewish, Islamic or other faith) may not be a godparent, sponsor or Christian witness. Since the sponsors renew their own baptismal vows during this Rite, it is not possible for a non-Christian to serve as sponsor or Christian witness. Former Roman Catholics may not be a sponsor or a Christian witness.