



Our Lady of Good Counsel  
10 Austin Place  
Staten Island, NY 10304  
(718) 447-1503  
OLGCSI.org

## Preparing for Your Child's Baptism

Please accept our prayerful best wishes as you prepare for the Baptism of your child. Your child is soon to become a member of our Catholic Church and the Mystical Body of Christ. We invite you to become more a part of our Parish life and a regular participant at Sunday Mass.

*Father Liam O'Doherty, OSA*

1. Please provide us with the following documents:
  - A copy of the birth certificate [or you can bring an original and we can copy it here for you];
  - If you are not parishioners, a letter of permission from your home parish pastor;
  - Sponsor certificate(s) from your selected godparent(s) from their home parish.
2. Please prayerfully consider your selection of godparents. A baptismal godparent is chosen for life and may never be replaced.
3. At least one Catholic godparent is required.  
If you select two godparents, one must be a man and one must be a woman.
4. A godparent must be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Universal Church Law allows no exceptions.
5. A godparent must be either married in the Catholic Church or single.
6. If you select only one Catholic godparent, you may, in addition, ask a non-Catholic Christian to serve as a Christian Witness.
7. Parents and godparents are expected to attend the Pre-Baptismal instruction. If you or the godparents live a distance from OLGCI, you may attend this instruction in your home parish. You will need a letter from your parish stating that you have attended the instructions.
8. We will gratefully accept a donation to our Parish to express your gratitude to God. We will provide you with an Offering Envelope at the Instruction Session.
9. Group Baptisms are the norm. Private Baptisms are scheduled only if a visiting priest has agreed to perform the ceremony and if the time and date do not conflict with our schedule.
10. We encourage the parents and godparents to go to Confession as a spiritual preparation for the Baptism.
11. On the day of the baptism, please arrive ahead of time so that you can be in your places and meet with the Priest or Deacon and go over last minute details.
12. Plan to arrive ***15 minutes before*** the appointed time of the ceremony. ***We begin on time even if not all of the families or godparents have arrived.*** The average time for the Baptism ceremony is 45 minutes.
13. We ask that you and your guests respect the sacredness of the Church and the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Tabernacle.
14. Photos may be taken discretely during the ceremony. Our preference is that you take posed photos after the ceremony. The priest will give you more details the day of the ceremony.
15. If you live within our parish boundaries or consider yourself a member of our parish and are not yet registered, please register now.
16. Please call Mr. Jim Cowan (917-797-4939) for an appointment to register for Baptisms.

## **Instruction Sessions for Parents & Godparents**

One Tuesday per month at 7:00 pm  
at the Parish Offices (in English)  
(Please arrive 10 minutes ahead of time)

### **2016**

January 26

February 23

March 29

May 3

May 24

June 21

July 26

August 23

September 20

October 25

November 22

## **Dates for Baptism**

Usually 1st Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM  
unless otherwise noted.

Please arrive at the Church **at least fifteen minutes before** the start of the ceremony.  
Family and friends are welcome. Ask them to be on time.

### **2016**

January 9

February 6

March 5

April 9

May 14

June 4

July 2

August 6

September 3

October 1

November 5

December 3