

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH

BUCKINGHAM, PA

*The Sacraments of Initiation*

*Baptism*

*Holy Eucharist*

*Confirmation*



*Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Gospel of St. Matthew 19:14*



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## *Baptism*

**“Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: 'Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.'”**

***Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1213***

Congratulations on your decision to have your child baptized! It's the first sacrament of what are referred to as the, “Sacraments of Initiation”. The others are Holy Eucharist, which your child will receive in second grade and Confirmation, which your child will receive in sixth grade.<sup>1</sup>

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, your child will become a child of God. Also, by Baptism your child is entering into God's family, the Church. In preparation for this special and sacred event, the steps below will be of great assistance:

**Step 1: Call our parish office to set a date for your child's Baptism.** Our friendly staff is happy to assist you. The office can be contacted at 267-247-5374.

**Step 2: First time parents attend a Pre-Jordan meeting.** *Pre-Jordan* (Jordan refers to the rivers in which Jesus Himself was baptized by Saint John the Baptist) is a wonderful opportunity to explore the great gift of Baptism, go over any practical details for the day of the Baptism, and connect with other parents who are having their child baptized as well. This meeting, done before the day of the Baptism, can be scheduled with our parish secretary. If possible, both parents should attend. Godparents are also encouraged to attend.

**Step 3: Choose your child's Godparents.** A *godparent* is someone who will be available to help your child in his/her journey in the Catholic faith. Quite simply, a godparent witnesses to not only good natural qualities but also qualities of a faith-filled life rooted in the Catholic Church. A godparent, while certainly not perfect, is a credible witness to the Catholic Faith. That being said, there are certain requirements which are expected of a godparent:

- He/she is a Catholic in good standing in the Church, which means that they have received the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation) and attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- He/she is over sixteen years of age at the time of the celebration of the Baptism.
- He/she is not the parent of the child to be baptized.
- If he/she is married, he/she is married with the blessing of the Catholic Church. If this is not the case, the proposed godparent is welcome to speak with the parish clergy before the baptism to have the marriage *convalidated*, that is, blessed by the Catholic Church.

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<sup>1</sup> These are the current grades at our Lady of Guadalupe. If you change parishes the new parish might have a different policy.

- Usually, a child has a godmother and a godfather, however one godparent is acceptable. If you have only one godparent you may choose to have a Christian Witness, that is, one who is baptized and a practicing Christian, instead of another godparent. Two godparents may not be of the same sex.
- Prior to the scheduled Baptism, the parish office will need a certificate from both of the godparents' parishes stating that they meet the above criteria.

**Step 4: Day of the Baptism!** Baptisms are usually held on Sundays after the 11 AM Mass (typically around 12 PM). Parents as well as their families are highly encouraged to attend the 11 AM Sunday Mass. Please arrive to the main entrance of the church 15 minutes early. As you arrive with your child and family, the priest or deacon administering Baptism will welcome you to the church and guide you and your family through the Rite of Baptism.



### *Growing in the Spirit*

**“Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.”**

#### ***Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2226***

“Catechesis” is a word which means “handing down the Faith.” Just as it is important to ensure that your child receive a good education in areas such as English, Math, and Science, receiving education in the Catholic Faith is much more so since knowledge of the Faith prepares us not only for our relationship with God on earth but forever in Heaven. As parents of a baptized member the Church, you are the primary educators of your child in the Catholic Faith. Catechesis is effective first and foremost in the witness of a lived faith, that is, a deep prayer life nourished by the reception of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, expressed through love of God and our neighbor, especially towards those who are in most need. Your parish is here to assist you in your role as educators of the Faith. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia provides opportunities for Catholic education at the various Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese.

However, if you chose not to enroll your child in a Catholic school, Our Lady of Guadalupe offers a Parish Religious Education Program or “PREP.” The Parish Religious Education Program or “PREP” is a six level program in which your child will grow in knowledge of the Faith, and, in so doing, their love God as well. Below is an outline of the important aspects of the Faith that your child will learn:

<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>	<u>Fourth</u>	<u>Fifth</u>	<u>Sixth</u>
*God the Father and the Son	*Holy Spirit	*The Holy Trinity	*The Commandments	*The Seven Sacraments	*Old Testament
*The Life and Dignity of the Human Person	*Sacrament of Baptism	*Mass	*The Beatitudes	*Parts of the Mass	*Christ’s Fulfillment of the Old Testament
*Call to Family, Community and Participation	*Sacrament of Reconciliation	*Sacraments of Initiation	*Corporal Works of Mercy	*Holy Days of Obligation	*Prayers
*Care for God’s Creation	*Mary, the Mother of God				*Mary

Once your child is enrolled in our Religious Education program they will participate in annual Penance services, Christmas pageants, May processions and devotions which include Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotion and the Stations of the Cross. They will learn Catholic prayers including the Rosary. Upon completion of second grade, your child will receive the Sacraments of Penance (Confession) and Holy Communion. Upon the completion of sixth grade, your child will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each year will build upon the previous one and your child will learn the love of the Holy Trinity, the central mystery of our Faith.

For more information about the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) as well as registration, please contact the Director of Religious Education, Jessica Walters at 267-247-5374. Registration for PREP occurs during the spring *prior to* your child entering first grade. Registration forms can be found on our website at <http://olguadalupe.org/p-r-e-p/> and mailed to our office.



## *Reconciliation*

(Second Grade)

**"Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion."  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1422***

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the Sacraments of Healing. Approaching this Sacrament with a sincere and contrite heart, Reconciliation heals us of our sins, which damage our relationship with God and neighbor. Your child will have the opportunity to receive the gift of God's mercy given through Reconciliation for the first time in their second year of PREP.

## *Holy Eucharist*

(Second Grade)

**"The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself."**

***Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1324***

The Holy Eucharist is the second Sacrament of Initiation for your child. Upon full and active completion of two years of religious instruction and reception of First Reconciliation, your child is eligible to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time. The Eucharist, the living, physical Body of Christ, is the center of our sacramental life. At Mass, we refer to the Eucharist as Holy Communion because by receiving it, we are in communion with Jesus and with His Church. Your child is joining into this wonderful community more fully. He/she will grow stronger in their relationship with Christ as well as with His Body, the Church.



## *Confirmation*

(Sixth Grade)

**“Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacraments of Christian initiation,’ whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For ‘by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.’”**

**Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1285**

Confirmation is the last of the Sacraments of Initiation. Upon full and active completion of six years of religious instruction, your child is eligible to receive Confirmation. It is sometimes referred to as the *Sacrament of The Holy Spirit* because it was initiated when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles at Pentecost. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, your child will be filled more fully with the life giving Spirit of God! Reception of Confirmation is a time when your child’s life of faith is maturing. Sealed with the Spirit, your child is now called to “build up” the Body of Christ, the Church, through an active, lived faith.

### *Going Forward in the Spirit*

**“Life in the Holy Spirit fulfills the vocation of human beings. This life is made up of divine charity and human solidarity. It is graciously offered as salvation.”**

**Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1699**

Once students have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, they are highly encouraged to continue their faith formation during middle and high schools through our Youth Ministry. The confirmed teens of the parish come together for monthly meetings, service projects, social events and CYO. Though faith growth can take place at any time, there is always an element of this in the monthly meetings. The Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministry work together to ensure a natural transition from Confirmation to Youth Ministry. For more information contact Lisa Kopertowski at [youthministry@olguadalupe.org](mailto:youthministry@olguadalupe.org).





*Child's Spiritual Checklist*

- *Received the Sacrament of Baptism* -----
- *Enrolled in Catholic School or OLG PREP* -----
- *Received First Reconciliation* -----
- *Received First Holy Communion* -----
- *Received Confirmation* -----
- *Participating in L.I.F.E. Teen (Grades 7-12)* -----

*I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*

*Gospel of St. John 10:10*