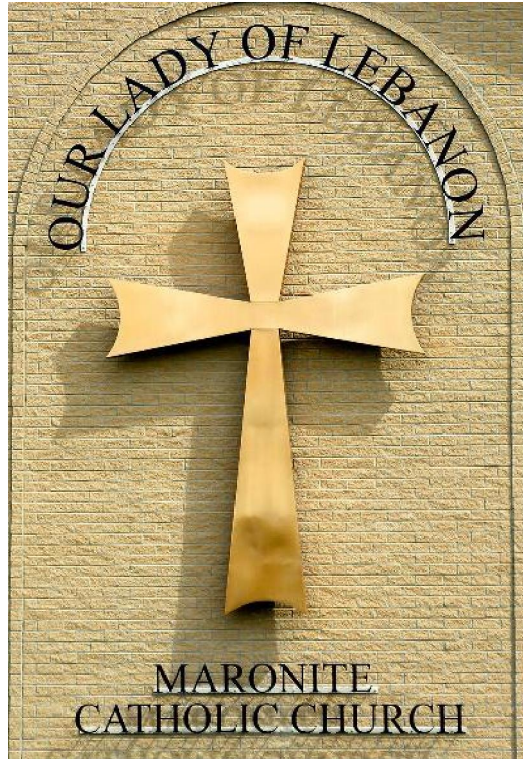


BAPTISM and CHRISMATION POLICY



Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church
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Our Lady of Lebanon Church

Introduction: Why We Baptize

The primary sacraments of the Maronite Catholic Church are baptism and Chrismation. Through this, the individual becomes a part of the worshipping community. More importantly, the mystery of baptism is that each person is born again, and becomes a disciple, a part of the body of Christ. As parents and godparents of a child to be baptized, you are making the first step for this child to become a member of this community. This community of faith welcomes new members, for through them, the faith of the community is enriched and grows. As this is an important decision that you have made, we have established the following policy for the preparation and administration of this sacrament. Whenever there is a question of this policy, the Code of Canon Law takes precedence.

General Requirements

1. Parents must meet with the pastor to be interviewed and fill out Registration form. If you wish to fill out the form ahead of time, it is also available online at the church website, www.ollchicago.org under "Sacraments". Please call the parish office at (630) 932-9640 to make an appointment. Both parents must attend, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Bring a copy of the child's Birth Certificate.
2. You must provide names of godparents.
3. Baptisms are scheduled on Saturdays before noon or after the 5 p.m. Liturgy and Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. Liturgy. No private baptisms are done except under extraordinary circumstances. Parents, godparents, and guests if desired must attend the Liturgy.
4. Baptism dates will be scheduled once all necessary paperwork is turned in.

Who can be Baptized?

1. There is no designated age at which a child is to be baptized. *The Rite of Baptism for Children* is for newborn infants and children who have not yet reached the age of discernment. If the child is of catechetical age (usually seven or a bit older), the child should be enrolled in a children's catechetical instruction program to be prepared for Baptism, Confirmation (Chrismation), Reconciliation, and First Holy Communion. Contact the Department of Religious Education for information on these classes.
2. The marital status and faith status of the parents will be discussed at the interview session. It is expected that at least one parent be a practicing Catholic.
3. The Diocese expects parents to be registered in the parish where they reside and become practicing members of that community. It is then expected, that the baptism will be done in the parish in which they participate. We also wish that parents not request to have a child baptized outside of these parishes. Under extraordinary circumstances it may be requested. One condition must be met:
 - i. The pastor of the parish in which the parents reside must give permission for the baptism to be done.

Godparents

1. In the baptism of infants, the parents take responsibility for choosing a godparent(s) that will serve as good examples for living the Catholic way of life.
2. A godparent must have completed their sixteenth (16) birthday to celebrate the sacrament.
3. A godparent cannot be bound by any canonical penalty. One godparent can never be changed, since they are the historical witnesses to the baptism and have entered into a permanent spiritual relationship with the baptized.
4. It is customary to select two (2) godparents. If this is done, one must be male and one must be female. Only one godparent is required for baptism and may be either male or female, but that individual must be a confirmed Catholic.
5. A non-Catholic may be chosen as a witness for the baptism provided there is at least one Catholic godparent. During the ceremony, the non-Catholic may perform all parts that the godparent does. The name of the person is entered in the parish baptismal register as a witness, together with the name of the godparent.

Baptismal Certificates

A formal baptismal certificate, signed by the celebrant of the rite and with the church seal is provided for each child at the baptism. This is an official document. If at any time, you need to have an official copy of the baptism certificate, you must call or mail the church in which the child was baptized for such.

Guidelines for Baptisms

1. Before any Priest other than the Pastor is engaged, the Pastor must be consulted. All expenses of the visiting Priest(s), travel, lodging, food and whatever gift of money one would like to give, is borne by the family involved.
2. All donations are the responsibility of the persons involved. The customary donation to the Church is \$100-\$200. Of course, if one is financially unable, all suggested donations may be waived. A clergy stipend is free will. If you should choose to donate by check, please write "stipend" in the notation area.
3. Items needed:
 - a. One large white towel
 - b. A WHITE outfit to be worn during Baptism and Chrismation
4. Photographs may be taken at any time during the ceremony in a tasteful and dignified manner. Caution should be used by the photographer not to blind the eyes of the Priest, Deacon, or any other member of the baptismal party. At NO time or for any reason will the photographer ascend the steps to the Altar or be on the sanctuary area surrounding the Altar.
5. Baptism is a public service and no person may be excluded from the Church, except where the invited list approximates the seating capacity.
6. No candles, other than what is already on the Altar, are permitted.