



Our Lady of the
Southern Cross
Catholic Church
GREATER SPRINGFIELD

Baptism Information

“Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish is a safe community of love, that believes in the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives and make disciples who bring people to Jesus.

As a disciple who belongs to our community, I commit to worship, to learn, to connect, to serve, and to give.”

Welcome to Our Lady of the Southern Cross (OLSC). We celebrate you being here and the exciting new life you are bringing to the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism.

This sacrament of initiation is not simply a ceremonial sprinkling with water or a cultural rite of passage. Baptism is a spiritual rebirth that brings your child into a relationship with Jesus and His church.

Baptism is:

- The first of three sacraments of initiation into the Catholic Church
- The beginning of your child’s journey into faith and into the family of God (community of believers)
- A public declaration that you are a follower of Jesus Christ
- A public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ.

Being a member of the family of God isn’t just about believing in God, or behaving in a particular way, it is about belonging to our community and the family of God.

For this reason the Sacrament of Baptism is not a private family event but a public and community celebration. At OLSC, we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism during mass (Saturday vigil, 5pm, or Sunday mornings, 9am & 11:15am).

As our children are too young to make baptismal promises themselves, parents make these commitments on their children’s behalf. On the day of baptism, prior to mass commencing, Fr Mauro will ask you this question:

*“You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. **Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”***

By making this baptismal promise, we are publicly declaring we are a follower of Jesus and his teachings and we are committing to help our children develop a relationship with God and guide them in the practices of the Catholic faith.

Readiness

As a Catholic role model for your child you are taking on the responsibility to provide witness to your own relationship with Jesus and the Church. In our parish community we have made a commitment to ensure all parents who have made this decision are ready to take this step.

We ask you to take some time to pray and reflect on what you are asking for your children and your readiness to make this promise.

Your readiness to take on this commitment will be dependent on where you are in your own faith journey. If you are regularly attending mass and a disciple belonging to our community then you may be ready to make this commitment now. If it has been some time since you were an active member of a church community, then the readiness to make this commitment may take some time.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, our community is happy to walk alongside you and help you in preparing for the sacrament of baptism. This process can take time and we require 6 months notice for baptism.

Preparation includes:

- Attending mass in our parish regularly
- Being an active member of our community
- Participation in the Alpha programme.

To help determine what the next steps are, we ask you make a time to meet with the Baptism Team to discuss your own faith and why it is important to you to have your child baptised.

As you prepare for baptism, it is our hope that the fruits of your own baptism will be stirred up again in your heart. We pray that secure in God's love, your family will thrive and prosper in its grace.

We look forward to journeying with you to make the baptism of your child a beautiful, meaningful and transformational experience for your family.

God bless,
Our Lady of the Southern Cross
Baptism Team

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe
everything I that I have commanded you.”*

– Matthew 28:19-20

