



Our Lady of the  
Southern Cross  
Catholic Church  
GREATER SPRINGFIELD

## Baptism Information

### OUR VISION

**“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 I commit to grow by worshipping, connecting, learning, serving, giving, and making disciples.”**

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. Consistent with our Vision, we value the importance of the sacrament of Baptism in your child’s life.

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), and
- a public declaration that you are a follower of Jesus Christ and it is important to you that your child is a follower of 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 held as a public and community celebration. At OLSC, we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism during mass (Saturday vigil, 5pm, or Sunday mornings, 9am & 11:00am).

As your child is too young to make baptismal promises themselves, parents make these commitments on their child’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, you are publicly declaring you are a follower of Jesus and his teachings and are committing to help your child develop a relationship with God and guide them in the practices of the Catholic faith.

In light of this responsibility, we ask you to take some time to pray and reflect on what you are asking for your child and your readiness to make this promise.

When you feel ready to take on this commitment we ask you to join our baptism preparation program. **To prepare for baptism you are required to attend all 6 sessions.** The schedule is as follows:

- Week 1      Session 1: “The Power of Prayer” (Sunday 10:30am – 11:45am)
- Week 2      Attendance at weekend mass (5pm Sat, 9am or 11:00am Sun)
- Week 3      Session 2: “Who is Jesus” (Sunday 10:30am – 11:45am)
- Week 4      Attendance at weekend mass (5pm Sat, 9am or 11:00am Sun)
- Week 5      Session 3: “The sacrament of baptism” (Sunday 10:30am – 11:45am)
- Week 6      Attendance at weekend mass (5pm Sat, 9am or 11:00am Sun)

**As this process takes time we require 3 months notice for baptism.**

We run 4 baptism preparation sessions per year. Our 2021 dates are:

Term 1: Sunday 31st January – 7th March

Term 2: Sunday 2nd May – 6th June

Term 3: Sunday 18th July – 22nd August

Term 4: Sunday 10th October – 14th November

To enroll for baptism preparation, please register using this link: <http://bit.ly/olscbaptism>

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,

OLSC Baptism Team

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*“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

