

Our Lady of Loretto Church

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May 31, 2019

Dear Parents:

Our Lady of Loretto affirms that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the parish is a partner in that education through our catechetical programs.

Saint John Paul II said in his Letter to Families...

“Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children, and they also possess a fundamental competence in this area: they are educators because they are parents. They share their educational mission with other individuals or institutions, such as the Church and the State. But the mission of education must always be carried out in accordance with a proper application of the principle of subsidiarity. This implies the legitimacy and indeed the need of giving assistance to the parents, but finds its intrinsic and absolute limit in their prevailing right and their actual capabilities. The principle of subsidiarity is thus at the service of parental love, meeting the good of the family unit.” – St. John Paul II, *Letter to Families*, 2 February 1994

Our Lady of Loretto follows Archdiocesan guidelines as set forth in the Code of Canon Law Sec. 852* for sacramental preparation for children. They are outlined in the attached document *Guidelines for Sacraments Conferred at Our Lady of Loretto*.

We are here to help you every step of the way. Please call the parish or visit www.ollnovato.org for more information.



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* <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/P2V.HTM>

“Loretto is a place of peace for the soul; it is a special encounter with God; it is a refuge for anyone who seeks Truth and the meaning of one’s own life.” – Pope John Paul II

Guidelines for Sacraments Conferred at Our Lady of Loretto

Baptism: Baptism is the foundational and prerequisite Sacrament for reception of all other Sacraments. The Church has different requirements for Baptism based on the age of the person receiving the Sacrament.

Infant Baptism: Any child **under the age of seven** who has not yet reached what the Church regards as the Age of Reason, and therefore the Baptism is at the request of the parents. Parents should be registered, active parishioners of Our Lady of Loretto. Parents and godparents presenting children for Baptism are required to attend a Baptism class. Godparents may attend a class in their own parish and send us a letter of good standing to that effect.

Godparents: A person may have one or two Godparents (also called sponsors); if two are chosen, they must be male and female.

In order for someone to be eligible as a Godparent they must be chosen by the parents, have the ability and the intention to fulfill the role, be at least 16 years of age, and be a confirmed Roman Catholic, who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist, is a catholic in good standing (including marriage) and will be a good role model for the one being baptized, and be neither the father nor the mother of the child.

A baptized person who belongs to another Christian community may only be admitted as a "Christian witness" (not a godparent) provided that there is at least one Roman Catholic godparent who fulfills the above criteria. A non-baptized person cannot be a witness (Code of Canon Law, cc. 872-874; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1255).

Scheduling of Baptisms is done through the Parish Offices upon completion of instruction and after receiving all the necessary forms.

Baptism for ages 7-18: Any unbaptized child of seven years of age or older (up to 18) is required to go through RCIA Adapted for Children and receive all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation) at the same time. Because these children have reached the age of 7, which the Church regards as the Age of Reason, it is not a choice to separate any of these Sacraments. This is typically a two year process culminating on Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter) as the date these sacraments are conferred to children at Our Lady of Loretto.

First Reconciliation: Any baptized child who is in the final stages of preparing to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion must first receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

First Communion: Any baptized child who has been continuously enrolled for two years in either Catholic School or Religious Education is eligible for First Communion in the second grade or beyond. If the child was baptized in a faith other than the Catholic Faith, the child makes a

Profession of Faith prior to receiving First Communion. Parents are required to attend the Parent Retreat generally held the first Saturday in November.

Confirmation: The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated as the culmination of a three year program of study. Typically beginning in the seventh grade, our middle and high school students explore the depths of our Catholic Doctrine while also participating in experiences through our youth ministry program that compel them to take ownership of the Faith they are studying. Students are required to attend two retreats. Parents are required to attend the Parent Retreat generally held the first Saturday in November.

RCIA/Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults: If you are an adult who is seeking the Sacraments for yourself, we encourage you to join our adult sacramental program. These weekly classes, set up according to your schedule, serve to pass on the teachings of the Church in a warm and inviting community of other like-minded adults. The process typically lasts 1 year culminating with the reception of all 3 Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Marriage: Contact the rectory at least six months in advance to meet with a priest.

Anointing of the Sick: Call the rectory to arrange a visit from a priest. Please do not wait until a family member or loved one is near death before requesting the Anointing of the Sick. The Sacrament is intended not only for those who are dying, but for any Catholic who is seriously ill, anticipating serious surgery or experiencing a severe weakened condition due to declining health or advancing age.