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Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. We are from another Catholic parish. We would like our child baptized at your parish. Is that possible?** Yes. Your parish must send a letter of permission to us. The letter should be addressed to the Pastoral Associate, Deborah Brinkhus at the address above and must be received before the baptism date. This policy applies also to families and individuals who were former parishioners at OLV but are now living outside the boundaries of OLV.
- 2. Do godparents also need permission from their parish?** Yes. Godparents who live outside the boundaries of OLV must provide proof that they are Confirmed Catholics **and** provide a letter of good-standing from their current parish.
- 3. Can a non-Catholic Christian be a godparent?** No. Only a practicing Catholic who meets other qualifications can be a godparent. A non-Catholic, baptized Christian can participate as a "Christian Witness". However, a Catholic godparent must also be present. Likewise a Catholic now practicing in another Christian tradition can be a witness, but not a godparent. A Non-Christian cannot participate as a godparent or as a witness. This policy should not prevent a non-Christian from attending the baptism. Non-Christians are always welcome to the baptism ceremony.
- 4. Is there a fee for baptism?** The Church does not charge for the sacramental celebration. If you wish to make a donation please send it to the parish office at the address above.
- 5. Do I need to bring a candle or anything else to the baptism?** No. The parish will supply the candle and other items needed for baptism.

6. **What should my child wear for Baptism?** A white garment is appropriate. The white garment is an ancient sign of the newly baptized Christian's new life in Christ. Your child's baptismal garment *need not* be a traditional baptismal or christening gown; it can be any clothing that is predominately white.

7. **I'm concerned. I've been told that if a child dies without being baptized they go to Limbo. Is that true?** Limbo is a theological supposition that has never been officially defined in Catholic doctrine. The idea of limbo seeped into the public realm over many centuries as a way of dealing with the necessity of baptism for eternal salvation and as a way of explaining what happens to the souls of individuals who die without being baptized. Unfortunately the supposition also caused a lot of undue worry for parents and their families. Though there are still thoughts and discussions going on in some religious circles and media, the Catholic Church discarded the supposition of limbo in 2007 saying it was an "*unduly restrictive view of salvation*".

Catholic resources used: **Diocese of Rochester directives and policies, BeginningCatholic.com and Baby's Baptism –Sacrament of Welcome**