

**If you live outside OLSH Parish.**

We encourage you to have your child baptized in the parish in which you live—because baptism is about *BELONGING* to a faith community, (your faith community). However, your child is welcome to be baptized in this parish, if you have a letter from your parish priest stating that you have spoken with him and have fulfilled all the conditions required by your home parish for the baptism of your child.

Together, we can make your child's baptism a joy-filled and spiritually enriching experience as you begin her/his faith journey.

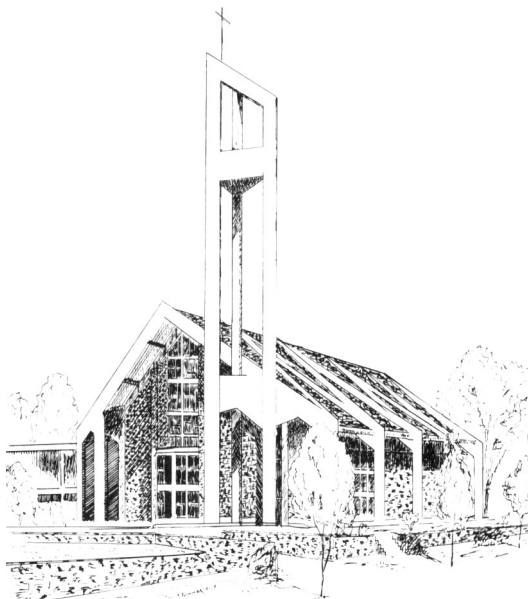
Above all, let us remember:  
“Baptism is a tremendous privilege because baptism makes your child a child of God and a member of the Body of Christ”.

Yours sincerely  
Fr. Jim Knight SVD  
Parish Priest  
OLSH Parish  
Alice Springs, NT

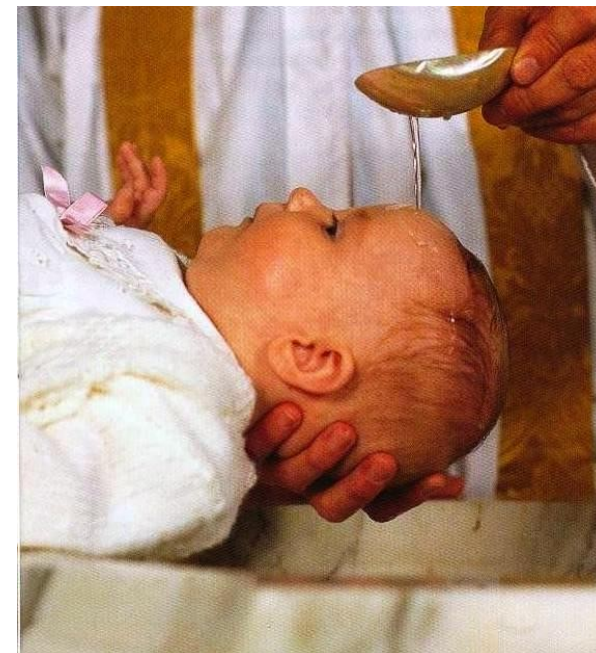
**For further information contact**

**Parish Secretary  
4 Hartley Street  
Alice Springs, NT**

**Phone: (08) 89531049  
Email: [olsh\\_parish\\_asp@bigpond.com](mailto:olsh_parish_asp@bigpond.com)**



**Our Lady of the  
Sacred Heart Parish  
Alice Springs**



**BAPTISM  
INFORMATION**

## STEPS TO YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM

### **Congratulations !**

because “the Christian Community welcomes you”

This sentiment is at the heart of the baptism you are requesting for your child. In the celebration of baptism, the Church uses different symbols, prayers and readings to express that your child is being initiated into the Christian community, which is, as St. Paul stated, “the Body of Christ”. Or, as another writer put it: Baptism is the entrance gate of the Christian life’.

Life is a journey, so too is the Christian life. In presenting your child for Baptism, you are stating that you want your child to be part of the Christian community—a community on a journey. Your child’s participation in the Christian journey will lead her or him into the ever unfolding mystery of God: to learn to know and love God. Commitment to the Christian life is not always easy, but we have Jesus’ word that it is well worthwhile.

To you, your child and your family, the Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart says, “ **Welcome !**“

### **The Baptism Enquiry:**

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish (OLSH) takes your request very seriously. Please find attached the Baptism Request Form. Read it carefully and fill in the required details, making sure the details are correct. This is important because it will facilitate the access of your child’s record later in life as well as appearing correctly on the baptism certificate you will receive.

### **Preparation Session for Parents and Godparents**

Next, we invite you, the parents and godparents, to a one-off baptism preparation session. At this session, which is friendly and informal, our baptism presenter will explain the baptismal ceremony including its theological meaning and responsibilities. These sessions are held on the 1st Monday of each month from 7.30—9.00 pm at the OLSH Catholic presbytery (4 Hartley St) which is the building next to the church. This baptism preparation session is required for the parents and, where possible, the godparents of the child.

### **Date and Time of Baptism**

Please note that the set date for the baptism of children is the 2nd Sunday of the month during the 9.30 am Mass. However, arrangements can be made for holding your child’s baptism at another Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the month or at a Mass on another Sunday of the month. What is of importance is that your child’s baptism takes place during a Sunday Mass, since every baptism is a communal and parish event.

### **About Godparents**

The role of the godparents is to actively support the parents in bringing up their child in the Catholic faith. It does not, therefore, make sense to have godparents who are either not Catholic or Catholics who are not practising their faith.

### **Offering**

Please find attached an envelope for your baptismal offering which will assist with the baptism certificate and other administration costs.

The suggested offering is \$50.

We do realise that your circumstances may prevent you from giving this amount. Please present your donation to the parish office prior to your baptism date.