



SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese America + Ecumenical Patriarchate
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Informational Packet for Orthodox Baptisms



THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD

IN THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS!

It is our joy to address you as you prepare to baptize your child according to the rites of the Greek Orthodox Church. Baptism is one of the oldest sacraments of the Church and serves as our doorway into direct communion with our loving God. Christ Himself received Baptism during His life on earth and when you baptize your child, he/she will be following in His blessed footsteps.

Baptism's significance in the life of the Church cannot be underestimated. Mystically, your child will receive as her/his new birthright, the inheritance of our Savior Jesus Christ's very Death and Resurrection. And with the addition of two other sacraments—Chrismation and Eucharist (Holy Communion) your child will now be a full-fledged member of the Orthodox Christian Church!

PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM:

SETTING THE DATE: If you are reading this online, please contact the church office to set the date for the baptism and arrange for the required paperwork to be submitted. We encourage you to set the date and time for the Sacrament with the priest as far in advance as possible. Please speak to the parish priest to set & finalize the date of the baptism. This may not be done by the Godparents or relatives.

PROHIBITED DATES: Because of the sacred cycles of the church worship year, baptisms are prohibited during the following times: Christmas Day (December 25) through Theophany (January 6) inclusive, February 2 (Presentation of the Lord), during Holy Week and Pascha, Pentecost, August 6 (Holy Transfiguration) or any of the Great Feasts of the Lord.

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (DEFINED): As with all sacraments of the Church we ask that you be a “member/steward in good-standing” in order to participate. This term has several emphases, but two are primary: firstly, that you yourself are a baptized and communing member of the Greek Orthodox Church and secondly, that you are a supporting (financially pledging with a completed Stewardship Card and contributing) member of your local parish, in this case, our beloved St. Nicholas Church here in Troy.

BAPTIZED AND COMMUNING MEMBER: To raise your child in the embrace of Christ and of His Church we encourage you to also be a baptized and communing member. To be a part of the Body of Christ through Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist, to attend Church yourself regularly, to cultivate and deepen your relationship with Christ in Confession, these are all things that YOU can do that will greatly assist your child to grow well in the faith. The ancient Church had a motto: One Christian is **not** a Christian. Your child will always look to you for her/his first example of Christian living.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL COMMITMENT: While the Church is the Spiritual Body of Christ, it is also in a very real sense the Physical Presence of His Body on Earth. When you become a pledging and contributing member/steward of the Parish of St. Nicholas you help us as a parish to meet all the financial obligations and responsibilities of operating a Church including: salaries for priests and staff, building maintenance, utilities, insurances, and myriad other ministry-related expenses. Without your pledge/stewardship and support we cannot

meet the spiritual, pastoral and real-world needs of yourself and of your fellow parishioners. The following contains a summary of the fees that you can expect when baptizing your child(ren).

Church Fee	Cantor	Cleaning/Sanitizing	Live Stream (optional)
**See below	\$125	\$150	\$50

** The Church fee for a baptism is \$500. This fee is waived if you are a member/steward of St. Nicholas in good standing for a minimum of 1 year with a minimum \$500 pledge. Honoraria for the Clergy are not obligatory.

RECEPTION: We have an outstanding Caterer servicing our beautiful Event Center that we'd like you to consider. Our Church website has a form you may fill out electronically or you may reach out directly to Sam at (586) 286-8435 or via email at sales2@erniesmi.com.

FOR THE BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE: The preference of the Church is that you choose ONE Orthodox Christian name for your child's baptism. By ancient tradition, each person baptized is given the name of a Saint who then becomes their patron and whose life and spirituality they hope to emulate. Please complete the attached form indicating your child's baptismal name as well as their legal name (inasmuch as they might be different). We will need a copy of your child's birth certificate and copies of your own photo IDs as well.

CONSIDERING YOUR SPONSOR(S): The most important decision you will make after committing to baptize your child in the Church is choosing a suitable sponsor. Your child's Godparent(s) (Nouno/Nouna) must be of the Christian Orthodox Faith; this is an essential aspect as the sponsor pledges to raise the child according to the rites and traditions of our Greek Orthodox Faith. They should be a person of exemplary character and deep faith. To this point, he or she (they) must be ecclesiastically and financially in good standing, and if married, his/her marriage must have been sanctified in the Orthodox Church.

Sponsors from a parish church other than St. Nicholas must provide a letter from their parish priest stating that this person is a member in good standing and is eligible to perform the duties of a Godparent. Please have this information to us at least four (4) weeks before the date of the Holy Sacrament.

The Godparent(s) should familiarize themselves with the Nicene Creed (copy enclosed), which they will recite as their confession of faith in the Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We ask that all financial pledges and obligations of parents and Godparents be completed at least thirty (30) days before the Sacrament.



ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE BAPTISM

The following are items needed for the baptism of your child. Traditionally, these items are provided for by the Sponsor (Godparent). Please share this list with them:

- Small bottle of olive oil (1) (250ml to 500ml)
- Bar of mild white soap (Ivory or Dove are good examples) (1)
- New White Hand towels for Priest and Godparent (2)
- New Large white towel for the baby (1)
- New Twin or crib white flat sheet (1)
- Decorated Candle (to be held by Godparent during ceremony) (1)
- Other small candles for the other children who may be attending the service
- Gold or Silver Cross with chain (1)
- New White Baptismal outfit, including new white undershirt or onesie, for baby to wear after Baptism
- Witness pins (Martyrika) are optional, but encouraged as they signal that each person present was a witness of the blessed sacrament.*

****Please note: It is customary for the Godparent/Nouno/Nouna to bring their Godchild to receive Holy Communion for three (3) consecutive Sundays after the Baptism wearing his/her baptismal outfit and with the baptismal candle. This is done in order to form and affirm the practice of regular and frequent communion for the child.*

WASHING OF THE BAPTISMAL GARMENTS, TOWELS AND SHEET FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Following the baptism of your child we ask that you take extra care in the washing of the clothing, towels and sheet that were used during the ceremony. The garments and other articles often will have been marked with the blessed oil of the sacrament. This oil (and any particle of Holy Communion that may have inadvertently been spilled) is not to be washed down the common drain and thus into the sewer. Instead, we ask that you give a preliminary rinse of the items with soap in a plastic tub and then to pour out this water onto the foundation of your home, or generally somewhere where people are not likely to step (a bush or pine tree works nicely for this). We do this out of respect for the sacramental oils (and for the Holy Communion, if it should spill). We should not treat blessed things as if they are common.

Below is a copy of the Creed that the Godparents will recite in either English or Greek at the Sacrament.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages;
Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary and became man.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And He rose on the third day according to the Scriptures.
He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen

ΤΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΛΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ

Πιστεύω εἰς ἓνα Θεόν, Πατέρα, Παντοκράτορα, ποιητὴν οὐρανοῦ καὶ γῆς, ὁρατῶν τε πάντων καὶ ἀοράτων.
Καὶ εἰς ἓνα Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, τὸν Υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ, τὸν ἐκ τοῦ Πατρὸς γεννηθέντα πρὸ πάντων τῶν αἰώνων· φῶς ἐκ φωτός, Θεὸν ἀληθινὸν ἐκ Θεοῦ ἀληθινοῦ, γεννηθέντα οὐ ποιηθέντα, ὁμοούσιον τῷ Πατρί, δι' οὗ τὰ πάντα ἐγένετο.
Τὸν δι' ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀνθρώπους καὶ διὰ τὴν ἡμετέραν σωτηρίαν κατελθόντα ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν καὶ σαρκωθέντα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου καὶ Μαρίας τῆς Παρθένου καὶ ἐνανθρωπήσαντα.
Σταυρωθέντα τε ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν ἐπὶ Ποντίου Πιλάτου, καὶ παθόντα καὶ ταφέντα. Καὶ ἀναστάντα τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ κατὰ τὰς Γραφάς.
Καὶ ἀνελθόντα εἰς τοὺς οὐρανοὺς καὶ καθεζόμενον ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ Πατρὸς.
Καὶ πάλιν ἐρχόμενον μετὰ δόξης κρῖναι ζῶντας καὶ νεκρούς, οὗ τῆς βασιλείας οὐκ ἔσται τέλος.
Καὶ εἰς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον, τὸ Κύριον, τὸ ζωοποιόν, τὸ ἐκ τοῦ Πατρὸς ἐκπορευόμενον, τὸ σὺν Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ συμπροσκυνούμενον καὶ συνδοξαζόμενον, τὸ λαλῆσαν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν.
Εἰς μίαν, Ἁγίαν, Καθολικὴν καὶ Ἀποστολικὴν Ἐκκλησίαν. Ὁμολογῶ ἓν βάπτισμα εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν.
Προσδοκῶ ἀνάστασιν νεκρῶν.
Καὶ ζωὴν τοῦ μέλλοντος αἰῶνος. Ἀμήν.

INFORMATION FOR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

Please complete the information below and forward to the church 4 weeks prior to the baptism.
First name, middle name and last name exactly as they appear on the Birth Certificate.

Name of Child: _____

PROPOSED Date of Baptism _____ Hour of Baptism _____

FATHER OF THE CHILD

Name _____ Religious Faith _____

Place of Birth (City/State) _____ Membership # _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

MOTHER OF CHILD

Name _____ Religious Faith _____

(Please include MAIDEN name)

Place of Birth (City/State) _____ Membership # _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

CHILD TO BE BAPTIZED

() Male () Female

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth (City/ State/ Country) _____

Christian /Baptismal Name to be given (English) _____ (Greek) _____

SPONSOR/S (GODPARENT/S)

Name _____

Members of what parish/church? _____ Membership # _____

City/State of parish _____

MARRIAGE OF PARENTS

Date of Marriage _____ Place of Marriage _____

Ceremony performed by: () Orthodox Priest () Roman Catholic Priest

() Protestant Minister () Judge, Justice of the peace or other (Please Circle)

Upon completion please forward this document to the Church. If sponsor(s) or parents are from a different parish other than St. Nicholas please include member in good-standing letter from the respective home parish.