

Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is one of the sacred mysteries of the Church. Baptism incorporates human beings into the Body of Christ and the Church. Through Baptism men and women of all ages and walks of life are introduced to the life of the Holy Trinity. Because it is through Baptism that one is introduced into the dynamic life in Christ, age is not a factor. An infant is usually baptized between five and ten months of age. In the case of a child, parents are encouraged to carefully select the sponsor (godparent) for their child. In the eyes of the Church, a godparent shares with the parents the responsibility for the spiritual growth of the child and becomes an indissoluble spiritual member of the family. Sponsors are more than ceremonial positions as they should serve as an important role in the life of the child as they do in the celebration of the sacrament. Ultimately, sponsors should be individuals whom the parents are confident will provide their child with a dynamic model of the Orthodox Christian way of life outside of the immediate family.

Before making any other arrangements, one must call the Church office to arrange for the date and time of a Baptism well in advance. Because Orthodox Christians cannot independently maintain a meaningful relationship with the Lord apart from the Church, the sacraments are an integral part of our life within the Church, and the Church is the vehicle of the Holy Spirit, it is incumbent of parents and sponsors alike to be faithful stewards of their respective Orthodox Christian Church.

Requirements for one to serve as a Sponsor/ Godparent:

- A prospective sponsor must be an Orthodox Christian over the age of twelve, who is in good standing with the Orthodox Church, and a steward of his or her local parish.
- Prospective sponsors who are from an Orthodox Church other than Evangelismos Tis Theotokou, in Oshawa, must provide a letter of “Good Standing” from their Orthodox parish well in advance of the scheduled date of the Sacrament.
- If a prospective sponsor is married, he or she must have been married in the Orthodox Church. If divorced, he or she must have received an Ecclesiastical Divorce and submit evidence thereof.
- Typically, a prospective sponsor should be able to attend the Divine Liturgy with the newly-baptized for three consecutive Sundays thereafter in order to receive Holy Communion together.
- It is typically the responsibility of the godparent to provide certain liturgical items. They include:
 - Cross & Chain
 - White Outfit for after the Service
 - A Small Bottle of Olive Oil
 - A Bar of Ivory soap
 - 1 white hand towel
 - 1 Large White Bath Towel - (If a double baptism – bring 2)
 - 1 Large Candle / lambada - (If a double baptism – bring 2)

- Optional additional smaller candles for Children to participate in a procession

After the Baptism (for parents of child or adult who was baptized)

WASHING OF THE CLOTHES & BABY/ ADULT AFTER THE SERVICE

Due to the fact that Holy Oil has been spread upon the child/adult and is seeped into the clothing and towels, care must be taken when washing everything. When bathing yourself, or your child for the first time after the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please do so in a tub which does not empty into the sewer system. Rather, when you are finished, you can empty the water, together with the Holy Oil around the foundations of your house, in the flower gardens or any place outside where people do not step. The same holds true for washing the towels and clothing.

Please Note: There are some dates in the Church's Liturgical calendar when Baptisms may not be celebrated: Holy Week, Easter, from New Year to Epiphany (January 1 – January 6), and on a number of other major feast days. Please contact Fr. Christoforos for further information.