

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Directions to Catechumens, those preparing to be received into the Orthodox Faith, 7 years and older:

- If the new catechumen was registered on the membership role of another religious body, the catechumen must upon being enrolled as a catechumen write to this body and ask to be removed from their previous membership roster.
- Attend Sunday Liturgies and Feast Day Liturgies, and other weekly services as possible (Vespers, special services during fasting seasons etc.) for at least a year before being received.
- Attend catechism classes offer by the Priest.
- Attend weekday Lenten services.
- Prepare and make a lifetime confession before being received.
- Fill out all required forms presented to you by the Priest and return them to him.
- Visit at least two other Orthodox Churches.
- Visit at least one Orthodox Monastery.
- Fill out the baptism certificate information form and return to the Priest with a \$10 check made to “Antiochian Archdiocese” for your baptism/chrismation certificate.
- You will need to find a Godparent/Sponsor. You must discuss your choice with the Priest prior to asking the potential sponsor. The sponsor will need to be approved by the Priest to be your sponsor.

Concerning all Baptisms & Chrismations:

- The Narthex of the Church is where all Baptisms/Chrismations are to take place. Baptisms/Chrismations take place outside of the Church temple only in cases of emergency.
- If you wish to invite a priest other than the parish priest of St. George to perform the Baptism, you must inform the parish priest of St. George first and upon his consent will he issue the invitation on your behalf.
- Following the Baptism the Godparent must bring the child to the Divine Liturgy to receive Holy Communion.

Requirements for Godparents:

- A Godparent/Sponsor of the same sex as the person being received is required. The Godparent/Sponsor must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing.
- The Godparent/Sponsor in the month preceding the baptism must have participated in the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion prior to standing as a Godparent.
- A Godparent/Sponsor of the opposite sex of the person being received is allowed if desired.

Checklist of what you need for all Baptisms:

- A baptismal cross, baptismal candle and a towel.
- An icon of your Patron Saint. If it has not been blessed, you will want to bring it to the Baptism so it can be blessed.
- A baptismal gown/robe.

Checklist for children over 7 and adults:

- A baptismal cross, baptismal candle and a towel.
- An icon of your Patron Saint. If it has not been blessed, you will want to bring it to the Baptism so it can be blessed.
- Black clothing for baptism should be worn. Men can wear a large black T-shirt and long shorts. Women should wear a one-piece bathing suit covered by a large black T-shirt or other loose garment that falls below the hips with long black shorts or leggings.
- Children and Adults may also wear a baptismal robe after being baptized and Chrismated as infants do. Ask the Priest about how one can be obtained or made.

Checklist for those being received by Chrismation only

- A baptismal cross, baptismal candle
- An icon of your Patron Saint. If it has not been blessed, you will want to bring it to the Baptism so it can be blessed.
- A baptismal robe or new set of cloths (mostly white)

Discuss with your Godparent/Sponsor who will purchase these things.