



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the forthcoming Baptism of your child. The Baptism of your child follows the important road that Christ took himself before He went into His ministry. The baby will be born again by the water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, representing the new life in Christ that will ultimately save the baby's soul with the protection of the Mother Church.

In order to better serve you, some important aspects of this sacrament need to be considered. In choosing a godfather and/or godmother to actively participate in the sacrament (by placing blessed olive oil on the baby before the baby is baptized), there are a few stipulations as to who is eligible: First, he/she must be Orthodox and a member in good standing in an Orthodox church with written proof of that fact. If married he/she must have been married in the Greek Orthodox Church and a copy of their ecclesiastical wedding certificate is needed. If married in the Orthodox Church, and unfortunately divorced, he/she must have an ecclesiastical divorce and submit a copy of that decree. These are some of the important guidelines for having the privilege of becoming a sponsor in an Orthodox sacrament.

Please see the attached checklist for the items you will need on the day of the baptism.

It is understood, of course, that as parents you will raise your child Orthodox and if there are needs that the church can help in any spiritual capacity, please contact us. To participate in the life of Saint George all that is asked of you is that you fill out a stewardship card if you have not already done so. There is no minimum of what you are expected to give and there is no fee for the church or the priest to perform the baptism. This is a blessing the church offers to your child in the new life in Christ. There are a couple of stipends required for the chanter and the sexton for their extra services, which is explained in the attached checklist.

After the Baptism, it is asked that you bathe the baby in a portable bath basin and pour the water on the grass. They are blessed in so many ways when they are baptized, we do not want the water from their first bath after the baptism to go down the drain. There is a small tradition of waiting three days for that first bath, however, this is up to you. In the same manner, when you wash the baptismal outfit for the first time please hand wash it in a portable basin and again pour the water on the grass. This also applies to the towels and the sheet all which you will get back that same day. The child should receive communion two more times after the baptism, preferably on consecutive Sundays, wearing their baptismal outfit and with someone holding the large lit Baptismal candle. These are important traditions maintaining the important order of our Faith.

Our office staff is always available to answer any questions. Please feel free to contact Donna and Evie. I look forward to participating in this beautiful Sacrament for your child. All of God's blessings to your family!

Yours in Christ,

†Father James Pavlow

BAPTISM SACRAMENT CHECK LIST

- Introductory phone contact with church office and Fr. Jimmy to set date
- Meeting with Father Jimmy to go over the Sacrament of Baptism
- Stewardship pledge and obligation fulfilled
- Sponsor(s) name, address, certificate of member in good standing and marriage license (if applicable)
- Paperwork and application
- Fees (cash or checks made payable to cash)

Chanter - \$100.00

Sexton - \$100.00

On the day of the baptism you will need the following items:

- a large candle
- two small candles
- a small bottle of olive oil, (please understand that the olive oil and its container will not be returned to you. They have been blessed and must remain in the church)
- a bar of soap
- two small white hand towels
- one large white bath towel
- a white sheet (size twin – flat)
- a new white outfit for the baby
- a Cross with a chain to be worn by the child, (this can be provided by you or the godparents)

Application for Baptism or Chrismation

- Please print neatly or type. Use all legal information as you want it to be printed on the Baptismal or Chrismation Certificate.
- The person to be baptized and/or chrismated must be given a Greek Orthodox Christian name of a saint.

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SACRAMENTS>BAPTCHRISM FORM 5.31.2019

DATE of BAPTISM or CHRISMATION (<i>circle which sacrament</i>)		TIME
Father's Information		Parents' Home Address
Name:		
City, State of Birth:		
Birth date:	Religion:	Telephone Number:
Occupation:		
Work Telephone Number:		E-mail Address:
Mother's Information		Parents' Marriage Information
First Name:	Maiden Name:	Marriage Date:
City, State of Birth:		Church Name:
Birth date:	Religion:	Church Address:
Occupation:		Name of Priest:
Work Telephone Number:		
Information on Child or Adult to be baptized and/or chrismated)		Godparent Information
First, Middle & Last Name: * (Name as it appears on Birth Certificate)		Godparent Name:
Baptismal/Chrismated Name in Greek & English:		Address:
Birth date:		
City, State of Birth:		Telephone Number:
Membership Information (DO NOT COMPLETE- for office use only)		Godparent's Baptismal or Chrismation Date:
Parents Members in Good Standing?		Godparent's Marriage Date: (If Applicable)
		Church Name:
Godparents Members in Good Standing?		Church Address:
		Name of Priest:

- A Godparent must be an Orthodox Christian in "good standing." This means Godparent is both a member of his/her local church as well as being in good standing sacramentally. A non-Orthodox Christian will have limited participation in the service. His/her name will not appear on the certificate and neither will they sign as a sponsor.
If you are a member of any other Greek Orthodox Church, please indicate the name and location of the Parish:
Parish Name _____ Location (City, State) _____

A membership letter must be submitted stating that you are a member in good standing.
To become a steward of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church please fill out a Stewardship Pledge Card. Please submit complete information.
For any assistance you may call the Parish Office at 609 586 4448.