

## HOLY BAPTISM

**Baptism is the Christian rite of initiation into the Body of the Church. The injunction of our Lord to the Disciples was, "Go and teach all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Entrance into the Kingdom of God cannot be realized unless one is "reborn of water and the spirit." In the Orthodox Church the ancient practice of infant baptism includes Chrismation/Confirmation and Holy Communion in the same service.**

**Children should be baptized as soon as possible to avoid any possibility of death without Baptism. Should an emergency arise where the death of an unbaptized child is imminent, the priest should be notified immediately. If a priest is unavailable, a layman may administer an *emergency baptism* by pouring or sprinkling water over the child's head three times saying, "The servant of God (name) is baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." This layman should report the act immediately to the parish priest. In the instance that the child survives, the child is brought to the church where, in the presence of a sponsor, Chrismation and Holy Communion are administered. Stillborn children are not baptized.**

**Baptisms may be performed in the church any time of the year except:**

- From December 25 to January 6**
- Holy Week and Easter**

**The name chosen for the child should be biblical or Christian in origin. Only one name is canonically correct, but in any circumstance no more than two names may be given.**

**Since Baptism is a life-long commitment to Christ and His Church, and the child has not attained the age of reason to personally make this commitment, the parents and the sponsor (Godparent) pledge to undertake the grave responsibility of bringing up the child in the Faith, teaching by word and example. Only an Orthodox Christian in good standing with his Church and Parish may sponsor a child in Baptism. A member in good standing is one who is living the sacramental life of the Church and has fulfilled his financial obligation to the local parish. If the sponsor is from another parish, a statement to this effect duly signed by the parish priest is required. Likewise, the parents, if of the Orthodox Faith, must be members in good standing with their church and local parish. No one under 12 years of age may sponsor a child.**

**On the day of the Baptism, the sponsor is expected to present the following items:**

- One towel**
- One bath towel**
- A linen sheet**
- A small bottle of olive oil**
- A bar of soap**
- 2/3 white baptismal candles (available at the church)**
- A baptismal cross for the child**
- A complete change of white clothing for the child**

**Limited photography is allowed during the service. This should be cleared with the priest prior to the service.**

## **BAPTISM FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

The following is a list of financial obligations once you book the Baptism day.

### **PARENTS OF THE CHILD/CHILDREN:**

#### **IF THEY ARE MEMBERS OF ST JOHN:**

Both the mother and father of the child or children must be stewards in good standing at St John Church with a minimum annual stewardship of **\$360.00** for individuals and **\$720.00** for families. **Less than \$1.00 per day for each.**

#### **IF THEY ARE MEMBERS OF ANOTHER GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH AND THEY WANT TO USE OUR CHURCH.:**

A letter must be presented from their parish priest indicating that they are stewards in good standing (sacramentally and financially).

A fee of **\$500.00** will be collected for the usage of St. John Church.

### **GODPARENTS OF THE CHILD/CHILDREN:**

#### **IF THEY ARE MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN:**

Both the Godmother and Godfather of the child or children must be stewards in good standing at St John Church with a minimum annual stewardship of **\$360.00** for individuals and **\$720.00** for families. **Less than \$1.00 per day for each.**

#### **IF THEY ARE MEMBERS OF ANOTHER ORTHODOX PARISH:**

A letter must be presented from their parish priest indicating that the Godmother and Godfather are stewards in good standing (sacramentally and financially).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Consent of the parish council is needed if any of these financial obligations cannot be met. Parish Council generally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

It is customary to personally give a gratuity of **\$100.00** directly to the **CANTOR (PSALTIS)** and of **\$100.00** directly to the **JANITOR (NEOKOROS)**.

**\*PLEASE REMEMBER THAT HOLY BAPTISM IS A RELIGIOUS EVENT.**

## **BAPTISM INFORMATION SHEET**

**\*Please PRINT clearly\***

**Date of Baptism:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time of Baptism:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARENTS OF THE CHILD**

**Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Phone:(Cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Phone: (Cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**E - Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**E- Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

### **GODPARENTS**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip:**

**Phone:(Cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**E - mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip:**

**Phone:(Cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**E - mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return to the church address above along with any fees or stewardship. The date and time of the baptism cannot be secured until all fees or stewardship are fulfilled.**

**SIGNATURE of RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

**Print**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_