

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION FOR THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD

God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
you have promised in Christ that we have sonship with You.
Fulfill your promise to us, and receive our *son/daughter* as a
member of Christ's body and the Holy Church.

Grant that *he/she* may receive the fullness of your grace
and the washing away of all *his/her* sins,
for without these blessings no one can enter your kingdom.

May your Spirit live and work in *him/her*,
that *he/she* may be yours forever.

All glory be to You, Father of love, to your Son and to Your All-Holy, Good,
and Life-Creating Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen!



Almighty and everlasting Father, we praise and thank You with all our hearts, that our son/
daughter will be baptized and set free from selfishness and the power of the evil one.

By Your death on the Cross and Holy Resurrection You offer him/her new life,
and the promise of Your abiding love.

Father, today as we prepare for the Baptism of our child, we dedicate
ourselves and our entire family to live in You and live a life for Your glory.

Teach him/her and us the way of your commandments.

Strengthen him/her that he/she may be strong in faith and grow in Your love.

Preserve us all together for the glorious day of Your coming.

Let the day of his/her Baptism be the beginning of a spiritual journey that
will end in Your presence in the Heavenly Kingdom.

To You are due all honor, might, and glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen!

O Holy Saint _____ (name of your child's Saint or Theotokos),
pray to God that his/her soul may be saved.

INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES FOR THE HOLY MYSTERY OF BAPTISM



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND
301-469-7990

The Holy Mystery of Baptism is the rite of initiation into the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the entrance into His body, the Holy Church. As such, it is the foundational Sacrament in which all the other Sacraments are rooted. In order to make the Baptism of your child most meaningful, the following information should be followed.

PARENTS

Parents, one or both, must be Orthodox members in good standing of the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George. "Good standing" refers to one's spiritual status (the regular and faithful practice of the Faith), as well as one's on-going financial support of the Church. Once the Baptism has been scheduled, a packet will be sent. Please fill out the one-page form clearly and return it as soon as possible.

BAPTISMAL NAME

The Apostolic tradition of the Orthodox Church directs parents to give the one baptized a name of *Orthodox Christian origin*, e.g. the Holy Theotokos or an Orthodox saint.

GODPARENTS

The sponsor (godfather and/or godmother) must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing either at St. George or at another Orthodox Christian parish. If the godparent is not a member of St. George, he/she is asked to obtain a Letter of Good Standing from the Orthodox Christian parish attended. Please make sure that the letter is sent to St. George at 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817 or faxed by the priest to 301-469-5945. This letter should be sent at least two weeks prior to the baptismal date. If the sponsor is married, the marriage must have been blessed in the Orthodox Church. Those who have been married outside the Orthodox Church may not serve as a sponsor for Baptism. **It is tradition that the sponsor provide the following items.** (If not, the parents provide them.)

A complete change of clothes for the child. (white)

Small bottle of olive oil

White undershirt

Cross for the child

3 white candles

1 bar of soap

2 small white hand towels

1 large white bath towel

1 twin white bed sheet

Martyrika (decorated pin given to guests at the end of the Baptism)

QUESTIONING OF THE GODPARENTS

You will find with this brochure, a sheet containing questions asked of the godparents by the celebrating Priest. These questions are the godparents giving voice for the baptized child and renouncing evil, proclaiming fidelity to the Lord Jesus Christ, and expressing the Faith of the Holy Orthodox Church (The Nicene Creed). Godparents are asked to speak in an audible tone and to read the Creed slowly and prayerfully.

For reflection.....

"Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken on before God through baptism? Have we come to know that we must conduct ourselves as children of God, that we must align our will with the will of God, that we must remain free from sin, that we must love God with all our hearts and always patiently await union with Him? Have we thought about the fact that our heart should be so filled with love that it should overflow to our neighbor? Do we have the feeling that we must become holy and perfect, children of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven? We must struggle for this, so that we may not be shown unworthy and rejected. Let none of us lose our boldness, nor neglect our duties, nor be afraid of the difficulties of spiritual struggle. For we have God as a helper, who strengthens us in the difficult path of virtue." *(On Baptism, by St. Nectarios of Aegina)*

GENERAL INFORMATION

The taking of still photos and/or videos is allowed. In order to ensure proper dignity during the service, the photographer/videographer must speak to the Priest prior to the beginning of the Baptism to receive instructions. **No video lights are permitted during the Baptism.** The use of a flash is discouraged.

If the clergy and their families are invited to attend the reception after the Baptism (schedule permitting), please send an invitation to them here at the Church. We ask that you send it at least three weeks prior to the Baptism. In addition, if you are inviting visiting Orthodox clergy to the Baptism, please inform Fr. Dimitrios and have the visiting Priest call to verify their attendance.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

Take time in the days before the Baptism to prepare spiritually for this wondrous Sacrament. Pause and make time to pray for your child, for other children, and for yourselves, that the Lord strengthen your family to be His faithful disciples. Use the prayers on the back cover of this pamphlet to pray together. Come to the Baptism focused on its spiritual depth and beauty.