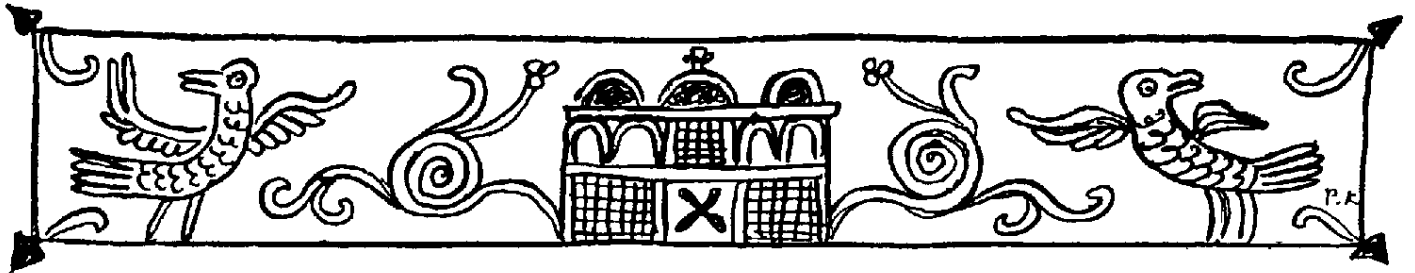




Notes on a Baptism

1. The Parents (at least one of them) must be members in good standing and supporting members of our Church and their marriage must have been blessed by the Orthodox Church.
2. As long as the family has been a steward of the Church the year prior to the Baptism and current stewards, there is no fee for the Baptism. Parishioners not stewards the previous year must become current stewards and provide a fee equal to the minimum stewardship contribution (currently \$400) to the Church.
3. Families that are members in another recognized Orthodox Church (and do not wish to become members in our Church) must pay a fee equal to two years minimum stewardship contribution (currently \$800).
4. The church office will not reserve Baptism date unless the couple or one of them is already a member/steward of the Church or pays the above fee.
5. The Godparent must be a person baptized as an Orthodox Christian, still a member in good standing and a supporting member of a recognized Parish of the Greek Orthodox Church. A person who does not belong to a parish, or who belongs to a parish under the jurisdiction of a bishop who is not in communion with our Archdiocese (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America), or who, if married, has not had his or her marriage blessed by the Orthodox Church, or, if divorced, has not received an ecclesiastical divorce, cannot be a Godparent.
6. Baptisms may not be performed from Christmas Day through the Feast of Theophany, during Holy Week, or on any of the Great Feast-days of the Lord, as from the archdiocesan guidelines.
7. Don't reserve a hall for the reception prior to having the confirmation of your Priest about the date and time of Baptism.
8. At least two weeks prior to the Baptism you must bring to the Church office the birth certificate of the one to be Baptized and, if you were married in another Parish, your marriage certificate.

9. In case that the Godparent is a member in a different parish, he must submit a letter by his parish Priest stating that he is a member in good standing ample time ahead of the scheduled Baptismal date.
10. For the reception following the sacrament, you must remember that if you want Fr. Nicholas to be present and to bless the dinner (as it is proper), then you should invite him the proper way; ample time ahead and not the last minute. He should be seated at the parents' table.



Special Notes

11. Under no circumstance can a non Orthodox Christian Priest participate liturgically in the sacrament, except as a friend of the family, sitting together with the congregation.
12. Confirm that the oil for the Baptism is olive oil and not of a different type.
13. **Chanter & Custodian.** All Baptisms require a chanter who sings the Holy Hymns during the Sacrament and the custodian who makes all necessary preparations prior to the Sacrament, assists the Priest during the Sacrament and cleans the Church after the Sacrament (Solea & Baptismal Font). Both should be given a minimum honorarium of \$75.00 (total of \$150) which can be made payable to the Church prior to the date of the Baptism. Usually the honorariums are the responsibility of the Godparents.
14. Please inform the photographers and/or videographers to be respectful during the service, not to run around the Solea area (the elevated part of the nave where the Sacrament is taking place), and absolutely not to turn their backs to the Altar area or the Priest at the Solea.
15. Please note that a meeting is required between the Priest and, separately, the parents and the Godparent before the Sacrament. Please call the office @ (203) 849-0611 to schedule it.
16. Usually the Church is open on the day of the Sacrament ½ hour prior to the Sacrament. In order to make different arrangements, please call the sacristan-neokoros Mr. Stathi (Steve) Papadopoulos @ (203) 722-0909.
17. The proper form to address Fr. Nicholas on the invitation and whenever it is required is:
Fr. Nicholas & Mrs. Dassouras

