



NOTES ON A BAPTISM

My Dear Parents, God-Parents and Children, it is with great joy that we welcome you to our Church for your Baptism. Please take a few moments to go through these notes on a Baptism and we welcome any questions you may have.

- The Parents must be members in good standing and active members of our Church and their marriage must have been blessed by the Orthodox Church. If they were not members/stewards the previous years, they must become stewards with a minimum stewardship contribution of \$400 to the Church.
- Families that are members in another recognized Orthodox Church must, also, become members in our Church.
- The church office will not reserve Baptism date unless the parents are already members/stewards of the Church.
- The Godparent must be baptized as an Orthodox Christian, a member in good standing and an active 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/her marriage blessed by the Orthodox Church, or, if divorced, has not received an ecclesiastical divorce, cannot be a Godparent.

- Baptisms may not be performed during Holy Week, or on any of the Great Feast-days of the Lord or the Theotokos, as from the Archdiocesan guidelines.
- **Don't reserve a hall** for the reception and don't print invitations prior to having the confirmation from your Priest about the date and time of Baptism.
- 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.
- For the reception following the sacrament, you must remember that if you want Fr. Nicholas to be present and to bless the dinner, then you should invite him ample time ahead and not the last minute. He should be seated at the parents' table.
- The proper form to address Fr. Nicholas on the invitation and whenever it is required is: Fr. Nicholas & Mrs. Dassouras





Special Notes

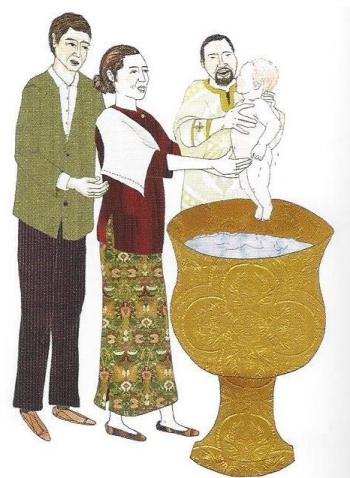
- Please inform the photographers and/or videographers to be respectful during the service, not to run around the Solea area (the elevated part of the nave where the Sacrament is taking place), and absolutely not to turn their backs to the Altar area or the Priest at the Solea.
- The oil for the Baptism must be olive oil and not of a different type.
- Please note that a meeting is required between the Priest, the parents and the Godparent before the Sacrament. Please call the office @ (203) 849-0611 to schedule it.
- 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 office.





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.
 - In case that the Godparent is a member in a different parish, he/she must submit a letter by his parish Priest stating that he/she is a member in good standing.
- 1. 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; the Church will provide you their names). **Honorarium for the priest is at the family's discretion.** Usually the honorariums are responsibility of the Godparents.



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
238 WEST ROCKS ROAD • NORWALK, CT 06851
PHONE: (203) 849-0611 • WEB: www.stgeorget.org
E-MAIL: Fr.Nick@stgeorget.org