



# ST. NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ

## ADULT BAPTISM GUIDE

Dear Baptism Participant,

We are honored and excited to be planning your Baptism at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Let us be the first to say congratulations! Below are listed some important facts and frequently asked questions in regards to planning your baptism.

### I. PLANNING YOUR BAPTISM

- A. **Cathedral Dean Meeting:** The first step in the process of planning your baptism is meeting with the Cathedral Dean. He will go over and confirm with you the date and time as well as priest availability for the baptism.
- B. **Documentation:** Once you have a date on the calendar from the Cathedral Dean, it is then your responsibility to reach out to our office to schedule a meeting with the Administrative Assistant to go over all necessary documentation. A copy of the your birth certificate, informational worksheet, and fee payment is to be sent directly to the Administrative Assistant.
- C. **Picking A Sponsor:** One sponsor (or godparent) is the maximum needed and allowed on the baptismal certificate. Sponsors must be practicing Orthodox Christians in good ecclesiastical standing with an Orthodox Parish which also includes being a current financial steward of the Parish. Once picked, your sponsor must obtain a Letter of Good Standing from his/her parish and send it via email or mail to Saint Nicholas.  
**Note:** Have your sponsor take care of this requirement early on, as it sometimes can take awhile to retrieve a Letter of Good Standing so that it does not become an obstacle to the planned Baptism date.
- D. **Fee Structure:** Stewards, as defined by a contributing member in the last 2 calendar years, of St. Nicholas Cathedral have a baptism fee of \$300. The non-steward baptism fee is \$500. Included in this fee are Chanter and sexton services.  
**Note:** Fees are due at least 30 days before the scheduled Baptismal date, and if not received by the due date, the baptism is considered forfeited and would need to be rescheduled. An additional honorarium to the clergy is customary and left to your discretion

### II. PREPARING FOR YOUR BAPTISM

- A. The **Sponsor** should familiarize themselves with the **Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed**, which s/he must recite *loudly and clearly* as part of the service that precedes the Baptism.
- B. **Two children** (old enough to hold lit candles safely) should be selected to participate in the procession around the baptismal font, which takes place in the middle of the service. In lieu of children, grandmothers have also customarily filled this role.
- C. Please bring the following items on the day of your baptism:
  1. Baptismal Outfit as defined by clergy
  2. Small (about 4 oz.) bottle of olive oil
  3. Baptismal Cross – usually gold and preferably not a crucifix
  4. Hand-held, decorated baptismal candle (along with two smaller ones for procession)

5. Bar of soap (optional)
6. Two white hand towels (please no washcloths)
7. Two white bath towels
8. Twin-sized white bed sheet for protection of sponsor's clothing
9. Martyrika (witness ribbons)
10. Bombonieres (candy-covered almonds wrapped in tulle)

D. Plan to arrive **a half hour before the scheduled time**. Videos and still photos may be taken only from specific areas by designated official photographers. Guests may take photos from where they are sitting but are **not allowed onto the solea**.

### **III. FOLLOWING THE BAPTISM**

- A. **Holy Communion:** You must attend communion two additional, consecutive, times to complete the cycle of three. For example, if the Baptism service takes place on a Saturday, you must come to the Sunday Liturgy the next day and on the Sunday following.
- B. **Special Washing Instructions for Baptismal Items:** All clothing and towels used in the Baptism must first be **hand washed**. The water used to wash them must be poured outside into a garden or flower pot - not down the drain - so as to prevent the blessed oil and Holy Chrism from entering the sewer system via your washing machine.

### **IV. THE BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE**

- A. You will receive your Baptismal Certificate immediately following the Baptism, and is an important piece of documentation. This document will be presented to the church when it comes time for marriage and often serves an important piece of supporting documentation and identification in civil matters. So, as with any important document, we encourage you to place it in a secure location or safe deposit box.



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## ADULT BAPTISM WORKSHEET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street, City, State, Zip*

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State, Country Month/Date/Year*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parental Information:

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Father's Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State, Country*

Mother's Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State, Country*

Father's Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(ex. Orthodox, Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, etc.)*

Mother's Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Spouse Information:

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State, Country*

Spouse Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Church Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(ex. Orthodox, Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, etc.)*

Marriage Celebrated By: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(ex. Orthodox Church Priest, other Christian Church Pastor, Justice of the Peace, etc.)*

Marriage Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Month/Date/Year*

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street, City, State, Zip*

Parish which Sponsor Attends: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of parish, City, State, Country*