



**GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF WINDSOR
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTRE**

3052 Walker Rd., Windsor, ON N8W 3R3 (519)252-3435 | info@gocw.ca

Planning a Baptism

HOLY BAPTISM

Baptism brings about the birth of new life in Christ. The Orthodox Church practices infant baptism because historically it never required “understanding” as a pre-condition. To know God is the fruit of baptism. Baptism makes a person a participant in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The church has a responsibility to administer the sacrament only to those who have shown that this is the primary purpose for the baptism. A Baptism is a privilege that requires a commitment on behalf of the parents to raise the child in the Orthodox Church. If parents are not active members of the Church, you must demonstrate a desire to become active for the sacrament to be approved. Parents are the primary role models for their children in living a committed life to Christ. Commitment to Christ is expressed in regularly attending Sunday liturgy, participating in the sacramental life of the Church and being a current member of the Church.

Those who would like to have a Baptism in our Parish must meet certain financial obligations. These obligations have been set by our Parish Council and are intended to help meet the financial needs of our Church and to encourage regular and consistent membership in our community from year to year.

BAPTISM: SPIRITUAL PRESUPPOSITIONS

Since a Baptism is a Holy Sacrament, it cannot be celebrated in a spiritual vacuum. This, therefore, presupposes that:

1. The person to be baptized has never been baptized before in the Orthodox Church.
2. If someone has been baptized in another Christian denomination, and wishes to join the Orthodox Church, they need to be baptized again. However, for Roman Catholics, Oriental Orthodox Christians, re-baptism is not required, only Holy Chrismation is sufficient to make whole anything that is lacking, and to join the individual to the Orthodox Church.

COORDINATING YOUR BAPTISM

Please contact your Parish priest, or the administrator in the Church office, to arrange for a meeting pertaining to the needs and requirements of your baptism. They will prepare all necessary Church documents, along with the collection of any Church fees.

SETTING THE DATE

An adult individual, or a family desiring to baptize their child, should first contact the church office to schedule an appointment with the parish priest. It is preferable to schedule your baptismal date with the parish priest at least three months prior to the desired date so that scheduling conflicts can be avoided. According to the official policies of our Archdiocese, baptisms should not be celebrated during several large feast days of the Church. However, please speak with our priest if you are compelled to choose such a date.

DAYS WHEN BAPTISMS ARE NOT PERMITTED

Baptisms may not be performed:

1. From Christmas Day through the Feast of Theophany (December 25 – January 6)



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2. During Holy Week, or on any of the Great Feast days of the Lord. If you are unsure, please check with the Parish Priest.

GODPARENTS

The “Koumparo” or “Koumpara” - the sponsor who will participate sacramentally in the service by speaking on behalf of the child, or standing with the adult, as they accept Christ and renounce the devil, along with placing oil on the individual and receiving them as they come out of the Baptismal font, must be an Orthodox Christian “In Good Standing” and a steward/member of his/her parish. “In Good Standing” means that they may not have gotten married outside the Church or participated in any foreign sacraments, as this would excommunicate them from the Orthodox Church. They are charged with being the spiritual parents of those baptized, to raise them in the Orthodox Church. If one is not Orthodox, then this role cannot be fulfilled. If the “Koumparo” or Koumpara,” is from another Orthodox parish, they must provide a letter of good standing from his/her parish priest.

NOTE: Honorary Godparents (who may or may not be Orthodox) may also be included and assist, as long as there is one main Orthodox sponsor. They, as well as the parents, may assist in holding the child during the service at various points, especially if it keeps baby happy and relaxed. The “Honorary Godparent” is NOT the official Godparent.

REQUIREMENTS to Serve as a Godparent

1. Must be a baptized Orthodox Christian
2. Must be an active Orthodox Christian (attend church regularly and receives Holy Confession and Holy Communion often)
3. Must know the Lord’s Prayer and the Nicene Creed.
4. A registered and paid member of our Parish.
5. If married, must have been in an Orthodox Church.
6. If married in the Orthodox Church and are now divorced, they need to obtain an Ecclesiastical Divorce Decree.
7. If they are from another Orthodox jurisdiction (or country) they must present a letter of good standing from his or her home Parish Priest.
8. Must understand that by participating in the sacrament in this manner, the Godparent is making a pledge to guide and support their Godchild by taking them to Church, speaking to them about Christ and the faith, and to model a healthy Orthodox Christian lifestyle to their Godchild.



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PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOTAPING

Photographs of your baptism are permitted but should not in any way impede or distract from the celebration of the sacrament. Photographers should be quiet and respectful; the use of a flash is allowed. The use of flying video drones inside the Church is prohibited. If you are planning on professional photography and videography, please ask that your photographer arrive early at the Church so that guidelines can be laid out. Also, please ask guests to be respectful of the professional's space, for your benefit.

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE BAPTISM FROM THE GODPARENT(S)

The following items are either provided by the parents or the Godparents.

1. Cross & Chain
2. A complete Baptismal dress or suit including underclothes all in white. White Outfit for after the immersion
3. White undergarments or a "onesie" to absorb the oil.
4. A Small Bottle of Olive Oil
5. A Bar of Ivory soap
6. 1 white hand towel
7. 1 Large White Bath Towel (If a double baptism, bring 2) 7. 1 Large Candle (If a double baptism, bring 2)
8. 1 White Sheet (Iadopano)
9. A bottle of wine Mavrodafni (Communal wine)
10. A large decorated white candle.
10. Martyrika (Witness pins: A small decorated with a bow and cross). The witness pins are given to the guests after the Baptism ceremony is finished.

WASHING OF THE CLOTHES & BABY/ ADULT AFTER THE SERVICE

Since Holy Oil has been spread upon the child/adult and is seeped into the clothing and towels, care must be taken when washing everything. When bathing yourself, or your child for the first time after the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please do so in a tub, which does not empty into the sewer system. Rather, when you are finished, you can empty the water, together with the Holy Oil around the foundations of your house, in the flower gardens or any place outside where people do not step. The same holds true for washing the towels and clothing.



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Parents and Sponsors should be present 30 minutes before the scheduled time to receive instruction as to the order of service. The service will begin at the scheduled time, if the parents, the child, and the godparents are all present. It is your responsibility to arrange a meeting with the Godparent(s), and Father Evangelos as far in advance as possible. If you have any other questions, please contact Father Evangelos' assistant Dimitra dpapadontas@gocw.ca.



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Baptismal Information Form

Date of Baptism: _____ Time: _____ Confirmed with Father Evangelos? Yes No

Father of the child

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Birthplace: City _____ Prov. _____

Current Address: _____
Street City Prov. Postal Code

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Religion: _____ Have you been Baptized? Yes No

If 'Yes,' please provide the name of the Church: _____

Mother of the child

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Birthplace: City _____ Prov. _____

Current Address: _____
Street City Prov. Postal Code

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Religion: _____ Have you been Baptized? Yes No

If 'Yes,' please provide the name of the Church: _____
City Prov.

Date of your Wedding: _____

Marriage performed by: Priest ____ Minister ____ Justice of the Peace ____

Name of the Church: _____
City Country



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CHILD

Child's name on birth certificate: _____

Baptismal Name: _____

Child's date of birth: _____

Child's place of birth: _____
City Prov. Country

The Godparent must be Christian Orthodox and be spiritually and economically in good standing with the Orthodox Church.

GODPARENT # 1

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Church he or she were baptized: _____

Married _____ Single _____

Name of Church you were married: _____

****Please provide Father a copy of their baptismal certificate and a marriage certificate if they are married. It can be sent via email to the administrative assistant dpapadontas@gocw.ca.****

GODPARENT # 2

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Church he or she were baptized: _____

Married _____ Single _____

Name of Church you were married: _____

The Godparent(s) must be Christian Orthodox and be spiritually and economically in good standing with the Orthodox Church. A copy of their baptismal certificate is required as well as their marriage certificate, if they are married

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Baptism Service Fee \$150.00

Baptism- Memberships Required

Family Membership \$250.00

Single Parent Membership \$125.00

Single Godparent Membership \$125.00

Additional Godparent Membership \$125.00