



BAPTISM PREPARATION GUIDE

Congratulations on deciding to join the Orthodox Christian faith!
As you prepare for your baptism, keep the following steps in mind:

The Day Before Your Baptism

- ❖ Prepare the necessary attire. You will need the following:
 1. **The clothes you will arrive in.**
 2. **A swimsuit to wear under the provided tunic during the baptism.** This is optional for men, but highly recommended for women.
 3. **The clothes to wear after the baptism.** These clothes should be all white as much as possible. Shoes do not have to be white. You will also need a change of undergarments if you do not wear a swimsuit during the baptism. Wearing white symbolizes being born again and united with Christ.
 - **Please note:** The undergarments worn during the baptism, as well as the white clothes that will be worn after the baptism, cannot be worn again after the baptism, but they can be kept. Also, after the baptism, the garments need to be hand-washed, not machine-washed. Then the water used for hand-washing should be discarded in the grass, not disposed of in the sink or any other means.
- ❖ Abstain from all food and drink from the midnight before.
- ❖ Please dress modestly for the baptism and the Divine Liturgy. Please avoid tight fitting clothing, shorts, and sleeveless tops. It is preferable that skirts and dresses be at least knee length.
- ❖ Feel free to invite as many people you want to the baptism.

The Day of Your Baptism

- ❖ The priest will pray on the baptismal water and then over you. During the prayers, the priest will ask you to select a baptismal name, if applicable, instead of your birth name. A baptism name might be a name from the Bible or one of the saints of the Church.
- ❖ You will then be anointed with the oil of catechumens and take the baptismal vow.
- ❖ The priest will then anoint you with the oil of joy and provide you with a white tunic that you will wear during the baptism.

- ❖ The priest and all attendees will then exit the room, and you will have time to privately remove your outer clothing (or change into your swimsuit if you brought one) and put on the tunic. The tunic should be worn over your undergarments or swimsuit.
- ❖ You will then sit in the baptismal font with your back facing the priest and attendees.
- ❖ When you are ready, everyone will return to the room to continue the baptismal prayers.
- ❖ The priest will then submerge your head in the water three times in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Congratulations! The baptism portion of the prayers is now complete.
- ❖ Everyone will again exit the room, and you will have time to privately change out of your wet clothes and into your white change of clothes.
- ❖ When you are ready, the priest and attendees will return for additional prayers.
- ❖ The priest will anoint you with the holy Myron oil and will tie a red ribbon around you. The red ribbon symbolizes being saved through the blood of Christ.
- ❖ You will then attend the Divine Liturgy. At the end, you will receive communion. When communion begins, kindly make your way to the front of the line, as you will be the first to receive both the Body and the Blood. Please remove your shoes before coming forward for communion. Women should also have their heads covered. Head coverings are available on the table outside of the Sanctuary door.
- ❖ During standard times of the year, there will be a procession in your honor immediately after the Divine Liturgy. During the Holy 50 days following the Feast of the Resurrection, the procession will be during the Liturgy.
- ❖ You will join the procession with the deacons and will carry a candle as you walk around the church.
- ❖ At the very end of the Liturgy (immediately after the procession during standard times of the year), please remain in the front of the church and stand facing the altar. The priest will stand before you, pray a concluding prayer over you, and will remove the red ribbon.

Congratulations again! We are so happy that you have joined our Orthodox family, and we look forward to seeing what God will do through you to further His kingdom. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Fr. Matthias.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. – Romans 6:3-4