

**Please complete the  
information below and  
provide it to the priest.**

*Date requested for the service:*

*Full name of person to be baptized:*

*Baptismal name (if different):*

*Date and Place of birth:*

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*Name of Father:*

*Name of Mother (with maiden):*

*Address:*

*Phone number:*

*E-mail:*

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*Name of Godfather:*

*Name of Godmother:*

*Address:*

*Phone number:*

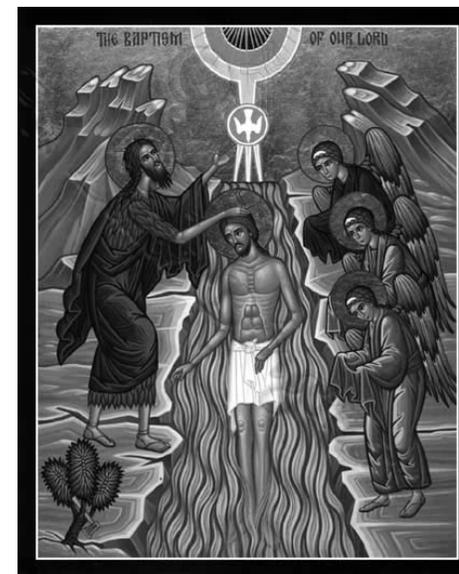
*E-mail:*



**St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church**  
181-14 Midland Parkway  
Jamaica Estates, NY 11432  
(718)380-5684

# **BAPTISM**

## *Entering the Church*



*As many as have been baptized into Christ,  
have put on Christ.*

In obedience to and imitation of Christ, Orthodox Christians enter the body of the Church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Descending into these blessed waters, we see a foreshadowing of our own death but find hope there in the Resurrection of Christ—our God who has gone before us. Though it is tempting to see Baptism as a social custom, it is more than this alone. It is the radical reorientation of a person from the life into which they were born to the Christian life that is the calling of their faith, that is their salvation.

As such, Baptism requires sacrifice and commitment. For adults, this means faithful participation in the life of the Church through her services, prayers, fasts, and feasts. For children, since they cannot make these necessary commitments themselves, it means obligations for those who are responsible for them—principally their parents and godparents.

Godparents become responsible for the spiritual wellbeing of their godchildren. In the Church, this tie is more binding than blood. Thus, godparents must be of the Orthodox Christian faith and regular participants in the sacraments of the Church—both Confession and Communion.

Parents also should be mindful that bringing a child into the Christian Faith will and should change their lives and priorities. They must commit to regular attendance at the services of the Church and work to ensure that the Faith professed on Sundays is also practiced at home.



Because the sacrament of Baptism indicates a desire to change one's life, there are necessary and obligatory expectations both before and after the receipt of this sacrament:

- ❖ **The family must schedule at least one visit with the priest before the Baptism at a time other than Sunday morning.**
- ❖ **The Godparents must meet with the priest before the Baptism.**
- ❖ **The Sunday before the Baptism, the family should be present for a short rehearsal.**
- ❖ **The newly Baptized must attend Sunday services for all three weeks after Baptism.**
- ❖ **The newly Baptized must attend Church at least once per month afterward.**

Baptism is not an event but an introduction to the Christian life requiring, as anything worthwhile does, discipline and consistency. Please ensure that your child is not a Christian in name alone.

Certain things are necessary for the Baptism. Though some people wish to choose very ornate examples of these, this is not necessary. These items should be brought either by the family or the godparents:

- Neck Cross
- Large Candle
- Small Bottle of Olive Oil
- Large Towel
- White Clothing for the Child

Though there is never a charge for the blessings of the Church, it is important to offer support so that the Church can be here today, tomorrow, and for many years to come. The standard donations are:

Sunday 9am	\$400
Mon-Sat 9am-4pm	\$600

If you are a pledging member of the Church, please inquire about the substantial discount available for you.

Please note also that it is customary to give a gift to the cantor and/or choir. If you are interested in renting the Church Hall for festivities to accompany the Baptism, please inquire about this with the priest.

**Please speak to the priest to determine the date and time of the Baptism as soon as possible and before inviting your family and friends.**