



TWELVE HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

632 East Second Street, Duluth, MN 55805 • Telephone: (218) 722-5957

Web: www.12holyapostles.org • E-mail: frdunstanlyon@mail.goarch.org

Infant and Child Baptisms

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4)

It is through baptism and chrismation that one becomes a Christian and a member of the Orthodox Church. Becoming an Orthodox Christian is a big step in someone’s life. It’s a journey of salvation with the end goal of being united to our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Because baptism is taken very seriously, Fr. Dustin requires that at least one, if not both, of the parents need to be in “good standing” in order to have their child baptized. This includes having a stewardship card on file and being current in your stewardship.

But, most importantly, being in “good standing” also means that you are regularly attending services. Having your child baptized is a commitment to Christ and his Church to raise the child as an Orthodox Christian and to teach them our faith. In order to do this, the parents must be practicing Orthodox Christians themselves. If the parents are not regularly attending worship, Fr. Dustin may require that the parents take the catechism classes or other educational sessions.

There are also a few other requirements that must be met in order for someone to be baptized at Twelve Holy Apostles:

Sponsors:

All sponsors (godparents) need to be in good standing as well. If they are not members of Twelve Holy Apostles, then they need to obtain a letter from their parish priest stating that they are in good standing in their home parish (financially *and* spiritually) and that they are able to participate in the sacraments of the Orthodox Church.

Remember, baptizing a child is a life-long commitment to raise that child in the Orthodox faith and to teach them the traditions of our Holy Church. It is the sponsors’s responsibility, as well as the parents, to bring the child to liturgy every Sunday and enrolling them in the church’s educational programs (Sunday School, youth groups, etc.).



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Administrative

The Metropolis now uses an online registry system for baptism and chrismation certificates. To ensure proper processing, **please submit the required forms 4-6 weeks** in advance of your desired sacrament date. The Registrar will then prepare a physical certificate to be signed by the priest and sponsors during the ceremony. **Contact Fr. Dustin to schedule both your form completion appointment and your sacrament date.**

Required Information: When meeting with Fr. Dustin to complete the online form, please bring the following information:

- The full name, current address, and birth date of the one being baptized
- Parents' full names (including mother's maiden name)
- Parents' current address and birth locations
- If applicable, parents' wedding information (date, location, and church name)
- Valid ID or birth certificate of the one being baptized
- Credit card (There is \$150 fee that is charged **by the Metropolis**. If this fee poses a difficulty for you, please see Fr. Dustin to have it waived.)

For the actual baptism, the sponsors (or parents) should provide:

- For non-infants: swimsuit and a plain t-shirt (any color is fine)
- Complete change of clothes/baptismal gown (white)
- Bottle of pure olive oil
- An Orthodox cross with a chain for the child
- A candle (you may use ones from the church, if you wish)
- One white hand towel (the church has a few, if you don't)
- One bath towel
- One white twin sheet (unfitted) or white blanket
- Martyrika/witness pins for those attending (cross with white ribbon)(optional)

After the baptism, a baptismal certificate will be issued. Please keep this in a safe place. Your child will need it if they transfer to a new parish, decide to get married, decide to become ordained, or, for some reason, need to provide a record of their baptism.

If you have any questions, or to schedule a baptism, please contact Fr. Dustin.

God bless.