



# Saint Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church

## Saint Basil the Great

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Dear Parishioner,

Congratulations on your upcoming baptism. Your baptism is a beautiful and important day in your lives. St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church would like to assist you in making it perfect. In order to avoid unnecessary issues and to help you in planning for your baptism, we would like to remind you of the following:

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the church office as soon as possible. The date and time of your baptism cannot be confirmed until that form is returned to the office. Please include a copy of your child's birth certificate.

A baptism is a privilege that requires a commitment on behalf of the parents to

raise the child in the Orthodox Church. 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 Steward of the Church. (If you were not married in the Orthodox Church, your marriage needs to be blessed in the Church in order for the Orthodox partner to be in good Sacramental order. This is not required prior to baptizing a child, but arrangements should be made to have the marriage blessed in the Church if you would like to receive Holy Communion, be a sponsor or receive an Orthodox funeral.)



### Choosing a sponsor or godparent:

In the Baptismal service, the Church requires an Orthodox sponsor/godparent. The sponsor is the one who vouches for the child and the family as to the sincerity of the reasons why they are seeking baptism. In addition, the sponsor serves to guide, teach and counsel their godchildren in the Orthodox faith. **The Church requires the sponsor be an Orthodox Christian in good standing; there are no exceptions to this rule.** The selection of a sponsor is an important choice. The sponsor/godparent is responsible for the spiritual upbringing of the baptized individual. The person becomes a member of the baptized person's family, and the baptism brings about a lifelong relationship.

### A sponsor or godparent must:

- ◆ Be baptized and/or chrismated in the Orthodox Church
- ◆ Be married in the Orthodox Church; if divorced, must receive an ecclesiastical divorce from the Orthodox Church
- ◆ Be a current parishioner in good standing (a member/steward) of any parish in the Orthodox Church

### A person may not serve as a godparent:

- ◆ If he/she is the parent of the baptized child
- ◆ If he/she is unaware of their Orthodox faith
- ◆ If married civilly and the Church has not blessed his/her marriage
- ◆ If he/she is civilly divorced and has not been granted an ecclesiastical divorce
- ◆ If he/she is guilty of overt sins or for any other reason he/she is not in communion with the Orthodox Church



Baptism fees are as follows as directed by the Parish Council:

CHANTOR	\$ 75.00
SEXTON	\$ 75.00
CLERGY*	*A fee for clergy services is not required. An honorarium may be offered at your discretion.

**- Notice of a new Parish Council (PC) policy for non-members and lapsed members: A Usage Fee determined by the PC to cover the costs of certain expenses that are incurred by the Parish for sacraments such as baptisms or weddings will be implemented, and in addition non-members and lapsed members must complete a stewardship application and pledge financial support to the Church annually.**

Please bring one check for the above fees two (2) weeks before the baptism, and the office will distribute the corresponding fee to each individual. Also, we remind you to arrive 15 minutes before the baptism is scheduled to begin, in order to complete the necessary paperwork.

For your information and convenience, we have provided a list below of articles needed for the baptism.

- ◆ One complete change of clothing, all in white, including diaper, undershirt, shoes (or booties) and a hat.
- ◆ 1 flat, white, twin-size bed sheet
- ◆ 2 white bath-size towels
- ◆ 1 white bar of Dove soap
- ◆ 1 small bottle of olive oil
- ◆ 1 baptismal candle, preferably white
- ◆ 1 white blanket (optional)
- ◆ 1 baptismal cross

Thank you for your time and attention to these important details. Any further questions or concerns may be answered by calling the church office at 978-531-0777.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Irene Stephanides, Office Manager  
St. Vasilios Church Office  
Irene@stvasilios.org