



The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Nectarios

Holy Baptism at St Nectarios

A practical guide to support parents, Godparents, and families

Welcome

Holy Baptism is one of the most joyful and meaningful moments in the life of the Church. Through Baptism, a person is united to Christ, becomes a member of His Body, the Church, and begins a new life filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

This booklet is designed to guide you clearly and gently through the meaning of Baptism, the role of parents and Godparent, and the practical steps involved in preparing for the service at St Nectarios.

What Is Holy Baptism?

In the Orthodox Church, Baptism is not simply a symbolic act. It is a true sacrament of new life.

- ✝ We are united with Christ in His death and Resurrection
- ✝ We are cleansed and renewed by the grace of the Holy Spirit
- ✝ We are welcomed into the family of the Church

Baptism is God's loving embrace, welcoming a child or adult from the brokenness of the world into the fullness of life in Christ.

19 Wycliffe Road, London, SW11 5QR Priest in Charge: Father Christodoulos

contact@stnectarios.co.uk

020 7228 4278

www.stnectarios.co.uk

Charity Number: 1042830



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The Role of the Godparent

Every person baptised in the Orthodox Church must have a Godparent. This is a great honour and a lifelong responsibility.

If a child is being baptised, the Godparent:

- ✙ Publicly professes the Orthodox Christian faith on behalf of the child
- ✙ Renounces evil and proclaims faith in Christ
- ✙ Commits to supporting the child's spiritual growth
- ✙ Serves as a living example of Orthodox Christian life

For these reasons, Godparents must be Orthodox Christians in good standing. If the Godparent is not **known** to the parish, an Orthodox Baptism Certificate may be required.

Booking a Baptism

Baptisms may take place throughout the year, except during Holy Week and Christmas, unless special permission is given.

To enquire about a Baptism at St Nectarios, please email:

Baptisms@StNectarios.co.uk

Fees and Certificates

A fee of £250 is payable to the Church. This includes the cost of obtaining the official Baptism Certificate from the Archdiocese and the necessary administrative preparations, whether for adults or for infants.

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What Is Required at a Baptism

For Child Baptisms

- ✝ Cross
- ✝ 250ml bottle of olive oil
- ✝ Baptism candle (available from the Church on request)
- ✝ Myropanni (large white cotton sheet)
- ✝ Large bath towel (to go under the Myropanni)
- ✝ Bar of soap
- ✝ Hand towel
- ✝ White cotton cap
- ✝ White vest
- ✝ New clothes for after the Baptism

For safeguarding purposes, the Church will also need the child's birth certificate.

For Adult Baptisms

- ✝ Cross
- ✝ 250ml bottle of olive oil
- ✝ Baptism candle (available from the Church on request)
- ✝ Towelling robe
- ✝ Bar of soap
- ✝ Hand towel
- ✝ Large bath towel
- ✝ Slippers
- ✝ New clothes

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Receiving Adults into the Orthodox Church

Christians who have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity are normally received through Chrismation. Those from other traditions are received through Baptism and Chrismation.

Orthodox Christians who are returning to the Church are also received through Chrismation.

All candidates undertake a period of instruction in the Orthodox faith via Catechism lessons led by a priest.

After the Baptism

Following the Baptism or Chrismation, it is customary for the newly baptised person to attend the next three services; where possible and applicable, this should be with the Godparent.

This helps root the new Christian life within the worshipping community of the Church.

The Baptism Service – What to Expect

The service begins at the entrance of the Church, showing that the person is about to be welcomed into the life of the Church.

Through prayer, renunciation of evil, and profession of faith, we put away our old nature that was in darkness and put on our new nature, enlightened in Christ.

The Godparent (or adult candidate) publicly professes the Nicene Creed, affirming the faith of the Church.



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The Blessing of the Water

The priest blesses the water of the font, asking God to make it:

- ✙ A source of rebirth
- ✙ A cleansing of soul and body
- ✙ A gift of new life in Christ

The Church also prays that a guardian angel be appointed to guide and protect the newly baptised.

Holy Baptism – Triple Immersion

The person is immersed three times in:

The Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

While the immersion represents death to sin, or burial with Christ in the tomb, the raising up out of it is the Resurrection to a new life.

Chrismation – The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The newly baptised is anointed with Holy Chrism, a sacred oil prepared by the Orthodox Church, sealing the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Each part of the body is anointed, dedicating the whole person to the life of Christ.



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New Clothes, Cross, and Procession

The newly baptised puts on new garments as a sign of purity and a new life in Christ; they receive a cross as a mark of belonging to Him.

A joyful procession around the font reminds us that life in God has no end.

Holy Communion

As a full member of the Church, the newly baptised infant receives Holy Communion; adults receive Holy Communion at their next service, and by doing so share fully in the life of Christ and His Church.

Final Notes

At the end of the service, the family gives thanks to God, and the journey of Christian life begins — supported by the Church, the Godparents, and the grace of God.

If you have any questions, please speak to the parish priest or a member of the Church Committee.