



Holy Apostles  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

19421 Ashworth Avenue North • Shoreline, WA 98133  
Office: 206-486-5212 • office@holypostlesgo.org • www.holypostlesgo.org

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# The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

## *A Guide and Information Packet for Adults Being Received into the Orthodox Church*

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It is a true joy and a blessing for us at Holy Apostles to welcome you as you are received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We will do all that we can to support you as you grow in Christ in our community.

Baptism brings you fully into the life of the Church and makes you a full member of the Body of Christ. As you prepare, we encourage you to live a life rooted in Christ. Worship with us as often as you are able, keep a life of prayer, and become an involved steward of our parish. There is no better preparation for a life lived in Christ than to share in the daily life of the Church.

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### Preparing for the Baptism

Reception into the Church is the fruit of a journey, not a single appointment. In the weeks and months beforehand, we ask that you worship with us consistently, meet with the parish priest regularly, and take part in our adult education and catechism so that you may be firmly grounded in the Orthodox Christian faith and life.

The length of your catechesis and preparation is discerned together with the priest, according to your own background. It is a dedicated season to deepen your life in Christ before you are baptized into the Orthodox Church.

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### Days Baptism Is Not Celebrated

Baptisms are not celebrated during certain seasons or on great feasts of the Church year, including:

- December 25 – January 6 (the Nativity of our Lord through Theophany)
- Holy Week and Great and Holy Pascha
- The Great Feasts of the Lord

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## Discerning a Patron Saint

In the Orthodox tradition, each Christian bears the name of a saint who becomes their patron. The patron is a lifelong companion, example, and intercessor before God. You may be drawn to a saint whose name you already carry, or to one whose life speaks to your own. Your priest can help you discern; you needn't decide alone.

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## Choosing a Sponsor (Godparent)

Please prayerfully consider choosing a sponsor (godparent) who will support you in your life in Christ. This is a lifelong relationship: your sponsor will pray for and encourage you, and will stand with you at your Baptism. Receive the priest's blessing before asking someone to stand as your sponsor.

A sponsor must meet the following requirements of the Church:

- Be an Orthodox Christian in good standing.
- Be a registered steward of an Orthodox parish.
- If married, must have been married in the Orthodox Church.
- If married in the Orthodox Church but now divorced, must have obtained an ecclesiastical divorce decree.

If the sponsor is not a member of Holy Apostles, they must provide a **Letter of Good Standing** from their own parish priest, sent to the parish office at [office@holypostlesgo.org](mailto:office@holypostlesgo.org). Other members of the family and party need not be Orthodox.

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## Items to Bring for the Baptism

The following items are provided by the candidate for baptism or their sponsor.

- A cross with a chain (to be blessed and worn; traditionally a gift from the sponsor)
- An icon of your patron saint (often a gift from the sponsor)
- A bathing suit that covers you modestly (for women, a one-piece suit is suggested; for men, board shorts or swim trunks)
- A bath towel (to dry off after the baptism)
- A smaller hand towel
- Two candles (you may decorate them if you wish)
- A small bottle of olive oil
- A small bar of soap
- Baptismal clothing (a white or light-colored garment, to be worn by the newly baptized)

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## Scheduling & Questions

To schedule your baptism or to ask any questions about the sacrament, please contact our parish priest. The date is set together with the priest once your preparation is well underway. No date is final until it has been confirmed with the priest. For all paperwork questions, please email or phone the parish office.

### Parish Priest

Fr. Tom Tsagalakis, Protosynergos  
fr.tom@holypostlesgo.org  
206-801-7036

### Parish Office

Alice Hopkins, Administrative Assistant  
office@holypostlesgo.org  
206-486-5212

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# Adult Baptismal Information Form

## *To prepare the Certificate of Baptism*

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The information below is used to prepare your official Certificate of Baptism. Please complete this form after speaking with our parish priest, and return it to the parish office by email at [office@holyapostlesgo.org](mailto:office@holyapostlesgo.org), or in person. If filling out by hand, kindly **print clearly**. Please double-check that all names appear exactly as they should.

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### The Person Being Received (Candidate)

#### Full Legal Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*First, middle, and last name — exactly as recorded on the birth certificate.*

The Candidate Is:     Male             Female

#### Baptismal (Saint's) Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*The name of the saint the candidate will receive.*

#### Place of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City, state, country*

#### Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Month / Day / Year*

#### Candidate's Current Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street, city, state, zip code*

#### Candidate's Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Candidate's Email

\_\_\_\_\_

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### Parents' Names and Religious Backgrounds

#### Father's Full Legal Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*First, middle, and last name. (Please list any prior names in parentheses.)*

#### Father's Religion

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#### Mother's Full Legal Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
*First, middle, and last name. (Please list maiden or prior names in parentheses.)*

#### Mother's Religion

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Sponsor 1 (Godparent 1)

### Godparent's Full Legal Name

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*Current first, middle, and last name. (Please list maiden or any prior names in parentheses.)*

### Godparent's Baptismal Name

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### Godparent's Parish

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*Parish name, city, state, country*

### Godparent's Phone

### Godparent's Email

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- The godparent is a steward in good standing at Holy Apostles.
- The godparent belongs to another Orthodox parish. A Letter of Good Standing from their parish priest is required and will be sent to the Parish Office at: [office@holyapostlesgo.org](mailto:office@holyapostlesgo.org).

**Please Note:** Only one sponsor is needed. If that sponsor is married to another Orthodox Christian, the spouse of the primary sponsor may be recorded as a second sponsor.

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## Sponsor 2 (Godparent 2)

### Godparent's Full Legal Name

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*Current first, middle, and last name. (Please list maiden or any prior names in parentheses.)*

### Godparent's Baptismal Name

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### Godparent's Parish

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*Parish name, city, state, country*

### Godparent's Phone

### Godparent's Email

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- The godparent is a steward in good standing at Holy Apostles.
- The godparent belongs to another Orthodox parish. A Letter of Good Standing from their parish priest is required and will be sent to the Parish Office at: [office@holyapostlesgo.org](mailto:office@holyapostlesgo.org).

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# For Church Use Only

This section is for the use of the Holy Apostles' Office. Please leave blank.

**Date of Baptism**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Month / Day / Year*

**Officiating Priest**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Title and name*

**Location of Baptism**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parish name, city, state, country*

**Certificate Number**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date Recorded**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Month / Day / Year*