



Holy Apostles ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

A Guide and Information Packet for Families

It is an honor and a blessing for us at Holy Apostles to baptize your child, and we look forward to supporting you and your family in the years ahead. Baptism brings your child fully into a life in Christ. We encourage you, both as a parent and as God's beloved child, to live that life fully by worshiping in an Orthodox church, keeping a life of prayer, receiving the sacraments, and sharing in the life and stewardship of the parish.

Baptism is likened to being grafted onto the Tree of Life, Jesus Christ, and we will do all that we can to help your child grow into the person God intends them to be. If you are new to our community, you are warmly encouraged to come worship and pray with us.

Preparing for the Baptism

The baptism of a child begins with the life in Christ a family is already living. Regular church attendance is a part of that. Before a baptism is celebrated, we ask that you and your family worship with us for at least three months. This is a time to build a consistent practice of worship and to settle into the rhythm of parish life.

Baptism makes a person a full member and participant in the Body of Christ. It begins a journey of worship that is meant to continue, at home and at church, for a lifetime. The Church offers this sacrament to those who intend to live an active Orthodox Christian life.

If you have previously baptized a child at Holy Apostles or another Orthodox church and your family has since been away from regular worship, the baptism of another child begins with a conversation about renewing your participation in the life of the Church.

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

Choosing a Godparent (Sponsor)

Please prayerfully consider choosing a godparent who will support your child's life in Christ. This is a lifelong relationship: the godparent prays for and encourages their godchild, and takes part in the baptism itself by reading the Creed and making the responses on the child's behalf. Receive the priest's blessing before asking someone to stand as godparent to your child.

A godparent 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 godparent 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. Other members of the family and party need not be Orthodox.

Items to Bring for the Baptism

The following items are provided by the family or the godparent. Please bring them to the church before the day of the baptism.

- A cross with a chain (to be blessed and worn; traditionally a gift from the godparent)
- An icon of your patron saint (often a gift from the godparent)
- A bath towel (to wrap the child before 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
- A receiving sheet (a twin or single bed sheet, to receive the child after the baptism)
- Baptismal clothing (a white garment for the newly baptized)

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. 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, Protopresbyter
fr.tom@holypostlesgo.org
206-801-7036

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

Baptismal Information Form

To prepare the Certificate of Baptism

The information below is used to prepare the 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, or in person. If filling out by hand, kindly **print clearly**. Please double-check that all names appear exactly as they should.

The Child

Child's Full Legal Name

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

The Child Is: Male Female

Baptismal (Saint's) Name

The name of the saint the child will receive.

Place of Birth

City, state, country

Date of Birth

Month / Day / Year

Child's Father

Father's Full Legal Name

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

Father's Current Address

Street, city, state, zip code

Father's Place of Birth

City, state, country

Father's Religion

Child's Mother

Mother's Full Legal Name

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

Mother's Current Address

Street, city, state, zip code. If the same as the Father's Current Address, write "same".

Mother's Place of Birth

Mother's Religion

City, state, country

The Parents' Marriage

Date of Marriage

Marriage Officiant

Month / Day / Year

Name of the priest, minister, or civil official.

Place of Marriage

Church or venue, city, state, country

Godparent 1 (Sponsor 1)

Godparent's Full Legal Name

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

Godparent's Baptismal Name

Godparent's Parish

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.

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

Godparent 2 (Sponsor 2)

Godparent's Full Legal Name

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

Godparent's Baptismal Name

Godparent's Parish

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.

For Church Use Only

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

Date of Baptism

Officiating Priest

Month / Day / Year

Title and name

Location of Baptism

Parish name, city, state, country

Certificate Number

Date Recorded

Month / Day / Year