

REQUIRED CERTIFICATES FOR INFANT BAPTISM

SPONSOR (Godparent, i.e. Godfather or Godmother)

1. **LETTER OF MEMBERSHIP.** If the Sponsor/Godparent is not from our community he/she must provide a letter from his/her Parish Priest (within or outside of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada) stating that he/she is a member in good standing for the current year. The Sponsor must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing and a valid member of an Orthodox parish of any canonical (i.e. recognized) Orthodox jurisdiction regardless whether within or outside of our Metropolis. If the Sponsor is not a valid member of his/her own parish within or outside of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada, he/she must see to immediately reinstate oneself as a member in good standing of his/her own parish. Meanwhile, the Sponsor should pay one time membership dues to our community right upon booking the sacrament.

2. **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE.** The Sponsor/Godparent must provide his/her Certificate of Baptism.

3. **CHURCH MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.** If the Sponsor/Godparent is married, he/she must provide a copy of the Church Matrimony certificate. The Sponsor must be married in the Orthodox Church. A person cannot serve as a Sponsor if any of the following conditions exist: a) his/her marriage has not been blessed by the Orthodox Church, but is a type of: “common law,” civil marriage, concubinage, heterodox (Non-Orthodox Christian denomination) marriage or Non-Christian religious marriage; b) he/she has a civil (court) divorce but has not been granted an ecclesiastical (Church) divorce; c) any other reason he or she is not in communion with the Orthodox Church.

PARENTS

1. **BIRTH CERTIFICATE.** The parents of the baptized infant should produce their child’s Birth Certificate from a hospital.

2. **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES.** The parents should present their own Certificates of Baptism regardless their Christian denomination (one of the spouses must obviously be an Orthodox Christian),

3. **CHURCH MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.** Provide your Ecclesiastical Matrimony Certificate.

If you are not married ecclesiastically (in the Church) at all, you are strongly urged to bless your marital union in the Orthodox Church as soon as possible. Meanwhile, produce your civil marriage certificate. If you have a religious marriage but it was celebrated by Non-Orthodox Christian denomination or Non-Christian religion, it cannot count for the Church marriage. In a case where the baptized child’s parents are not ecclesiastically or judicially married, the relevant wording (“*This is to certify that of the ecclesiastically and judicially legal spouses ...*”) that appears in Baptismal Certificate will be stricken. Please, talk to the celebrant Priest as to how you can solve these issues.

IMPORTANT: The Baptism is considered booked only after:

1. All required certificates are presented to the celebrant Priest well in advance,
2. All mandatory fees are fully paid upfront to our Community and

3. The date is confirmed with the celebrant Priest. Note, a mere confirmation of a Baptism date with a Priest or booking of our Banquet Hall does not mean you have booked your baptismal ceremony.
4. If you would like to invite an Orthodox guest-priest to co-celebrate the Baptism, both he and you must contact our Parish Priest first.