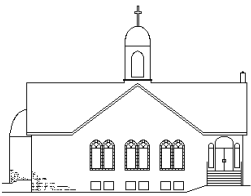




**Greek  
Orthodox  
Archdiocese  
of Canada**

**Saint Paul's  
Greek  
Orthodox  
Community of  
Regina**



**Saint Paul's  
Greek  
Orthodox  
Church**

**Ελληνική  
Ορθόδοξος  
Εκκλησία  
Ο Άγιος Παύλος**

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## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENTS**

- (a) The Orthodox Church believes that it is best that an individual be baptized as soon as possible after he/she is born. It is therefore strongly recommended that the child be baptized before his/her first birthday.
- (b) The parents of the child to be baptized must be members in good standing of an Orthodox Church. To be a member in good standing of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina, the stewardship obligation for the past three years must be paid in full. The stewardship obligation for families are \$300 per year (\$150 per year for a single parent). The stewardship obligation is applied retroactively for any party who has never been a member in good standing, is over the age of 18 and has resided within the Church's jurisdiction. The stewardship obligation must be fully paid prior to the sacrament taking place.

In the event that the parents are members of another Orthodox Church, they must present a signed letter from their Priest indicating that they are in good standing Ecclesiastically and up-to-date with their financial obligations towards that Church. As well, a sacrament fee of \$300 must be paid in full prior to the sacrament taking place.

If the parents do not wish to become members of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina and are not members in good standing of another Orthodox Church, then the financial obligation is \$900 which must be paid in full prior to the sacrament taking place.

- (c) The baptism of a single parent child can be performed provided that when the other parent/guardian is unable to attend the baptism service, the attending parent **MUST** provide a legal baptism consent form or a court order. The baptism consent form must be signed by the non-attending parent/guardian and co-signed by a priest, notary, or lawyer.
- (d) The Membership Verification form must be completed, signed by the Treasurer of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina and returned to the Priest prior to the baptism taking place. The Priest will not perform the baptism if this form is not returned to him.
- (e) The parents must submit the child's birth certificate to the Priest.
- (f) Baptisms may not be conducted on the following days, unless it is absolutely necessary and permission is obtained from His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios (Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto):
- **December 25 to January 26**
  - **During Holy Week and Easter**
  - **All of the Feast Days of our Lord**
  - **August 15**
- (g) After the baptism, the parents should ensure to obtain the baptismal certificate completely filled out and signed by the Priest.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GODPARENT (KOUMBAROS/KOUMBARA)

- (a) If married, the Godparent must have been married in an Orthodox Church.
- (b) The Godparent *must be* an Orthodox Christian.
- (c) The Godparent must be over twelve years of age.
- (d) The Godparent must be a member in good standing of an Orthodox Church. To be a member in good standing of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina, the stewardship obligation for the past three years must be paid in full. If under the age of 18, then the parents of the Godparent must be members in good standing of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina. The stewardship obligation for families is \$300 per year (\$150 per year for single persons over the age of 18). The stewardship obligation is applied retroactively for any party who has never been a member in good standing, is over the age of 18 and has resided within the Church's jurisdiction. The stewardship obligation must be fully paid prior to the sacrament taking place.

In the event that the Godparent is a member of another Orthodox Church, he/she must present a signed letter from his/her Priest indicating that he/she is in good standing Ecclesiastically and up-to-date with his/her financial obligations towards that Church. As well, a sacrament fee of \$300 must be paid in full prior to the sacrament taking place.

If the Godparent does not wish to become a member of Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina and is not a member in good standing of another Orthodox Church, then the financial obligation is \$900 which must be paid in full prior to the sacrament taking place.

- (e) The name given to those about to be baptized must be Christian and Greek. The Godparent (and parents) should check with the Priest before they decide upon a name.
- (f) The Godparent must be able to either read or recite *The Creed* in either Greek or English.
- (g) The Godparent is responsible for the following items:
  - one decorative candle (labatha) approximately 4 feet tall
  - a Christian cross (an absolute necessity) to be given as a gift to the newly-baptized child
  - one small bottle of olive oil
  - one bar of soap
  - one large white (double size) bed sheet
  - one large white towel
  - two small white towels
  - a complete set of new clothes including:
    - baptismal hat, socks, shoes, undergarments