

# Infant Baptism Checklist

Saint Mary Magdalen Orthodox Church

1. Before you book a place for the reception, or make any other plans, speak with the priest and schedule a date for the baptism.
2. Baptism like all the mysteries of the Church (sacraments) are public and attendance can not be restricted to a guest list.
3. It is strongly recommended that the baptism occur when the child is between 40 days and six months of age.
4. It is also customary after the 40th day of the child's birth for the mother and child to return to church and participate in the Churching of the child. This short ritual, often performed at the end of the Divine Liturgy, welcomes the mother and child back into the community. This may also be performed at the very end of the baptism service if it has not already occurred.
5. You should select godparents for your child. At least one of the godparents must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing and of the same gender as the child. One of the godparents, if they are not an Orthodox Christian, may be an honorary godparent. It is customary for the godparents to supply the baptismal cross.
6. The parents and godparents of the child must also communicate their intent to raise the child in the Orthodox faith.
7. Prior to the baptism itself the parents and godparents should meet with the priest in person to briefly rehearse the service and to answer any questions. This can be done after any regular scheduled service or by appointment.
8. Other items that you will need for the baptism include: a white gown for the child, a baptismal cross, and a towel.
9. If the baptism is not served before the Divine Liturgy then at the next possible opportunity the parents need to bring the child for their first communion. This should not be longer than a week from the baptism.
10. It is customary for donations to be made in thanks for the sacrament. See below for suggested donation amounts.
11. If you are not part of a parish, now is an ideal time to belong. Speak with the parish priest on how you can best participate in the spiritual life of a local church.

## *Suggested Donations*

For Clergy	\$200-\$500
For Cantor	\$150-\$300
For Church	\$250-\$750