



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF HOLY CROSS - ST. NEKTARIOS (BARRIE)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ - ΑΓ. ΝΕΚΤΑΡΙΟΥ

572 Penetanguishene Rd, P.O. Box 453, Barrie, ON, L4M 4T7

Tel: (705) 726-9875 • E-mail: stnektariosgoc@gmail.com • URL: www.stnektariosbarrie.com

MYSTERY OF BAPTISM AND CHRISMATION INFORMATION

Beloved in the Lord,

The Mystery of Baptism in the Orthodox Christian Church is an exciting one because through the Orthodox Christian Baptismal Service we are joined to Christ and His Church. This means you are also joined to our Church Community! The time before baptism should be used to get to know the Church, our Community, and the Parish Priest. Here are some of the steps to help in becoming closer to the community and preparing for your Baptism in Christ:

- ***We must take the time needed.*** The time and effort you put into getting ready for your Baptism is never a waste. It is important that this period of preparation is never rushed but used effectively to build a strong relationship with the people around you.
- ***Baptism Preparation.*** Parents and sponsors will be required to meet with Father to go over the Mystery, the obligations of the parents and godparents, and to answer any questions you may have.
- ***For Adults - Catechism.*** It is important to get to know the faith you will be entering. For this reason, Father will advise you to first attend as many Church services as much as possible and to also attend our bi-weekly Bible Study (Reflections) in order to learn the faith, its practices, and traditions. This is also an opportunity to get acquainted with Fr. Theodoros, our parishioners, as well as other who are coming to the Orthodox Christian Faith, and our Church Community.
- ***Godparents / Sponsors.*** The person(s) who will be involved in the Baptismal service, by becoming a spiritual parent, must be a role model in living an Orthodox Christian lifestyle and therefore must be a member in good standing; this means that they attend Church regularly, and follow the canons of the Church. Because they will be a source of support during this time of preparation and afterwards in your daily life, it is important to choose carefully. Again, speak with Father! He can help you with this.
- ***Community Participation.*** It is the Christian teaching, that to join to Christ is inseparable to joining His Church. This means that being married in a Church leads to being a member of that Church. Being a part of the family has both physical and spiritual benefits and responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to keep your membership current and up to date. Your contributions to the Community, through your time and financial support, are what allow it to live and grow. In return you are joined by an entire group of like-minded Orthodox Christians all working towards a common goal, *a loving relationship with each other in Christ*. For information on memberships please speak to a member of our Community Council.

Please remember that all good things come with prayer. While difficulties, both spiritual and organizational are unavoidable, do not forget that you are not alone. If you need any help please contact Fr. Theodoros at (705) 726-9875.

With fatherly love and blessings,

+ *Fr. Theodoros*

+ **Fr. Theodoros**

Parish Priest