

## ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Windham, NY 12496  
(518) 734-4631

### Preparation for Baptism

**Membership:** In order to be able to receive a sacrament in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese one must be a member of their parish. All persons 21 years of age and older are expected to contribute their fair share. Membership at the Assumption Church is \$150 per year for a family; \$100 per year for a single person. If the person requesting Baptism is a member of another parish, they must bring a letter of good standing from that parish priest or pay a Contribution of \$100. (In 2018 the membership may be raised to \$200.)

**Sponsor:** As well the Koumbaros or Koumbara must also be a member of a Parish and be of Good Standing. If the Koumbaros is not a member of Assumption Church they must bring **a letter of Good Standing from their parish** priest or pay a Membership of \$100. To be of Good Standing means that they are a Baptized Orthodox Christian; up to date with their membership; if married they must have been married in the Orthodox Church; if divorced they must have received an Ecclesiastical Divorce. There shall be no impediment on their background. They are considered free and clear. If, on the rare occasion, that both the one to be baptized and the sponsor are both members of another parish, it is the duty of one of the Baptism party to become a member and contribute their fair share. A donation of \$150 is suggested.

**Setting the Date:** Baptisms are not permitted

- I. December 5 – January 6
- II. Holy Week
- III. Major Feast Days

**Meeting with Priest:** One month before the Baptism the parents or couple, need to meet with the priest and establish that membership is up to date and the necessary paperwork to perform a Baptism is submitted. ***The Birth Certificate*** of the intended is also to be submitted. We will make a photocopy for you. At this time approval of the Baptismal name will be discussed, or the closest Orthodox match will be suggested. Also, a copy of the parent's ***marriage certificate*** is requested, if available.

**Necessary Items:** There are a number of items which are necessary to perform a Baptism and it is the responsibility traditionally of the Koumbaros to provide these:

- I. Cross with chain (In the Orthodox tradition it is a cross without the Christ on it, it is the cross of the resurrection).
- II. Small flask of Olive Oil
- III. 1 large bath towel
- IV. 1 small hand towel
- V. 1 large flat sheet
- VI. Large decorative Baptismal Candle plus two smaller candles for the procession around the Baptismal Font
- VII. All white clothes and shoes
- VIII. Bar of hand soap
- IX. Chosen two extra people to encircle the Baptismal font during the procession. These may generally be young children who are able to hold a candle, but adults or relatives may be chosen as well.

For Adult Baptisms:

- I. A sticharion (we have a sticharion to provide for you) for submersion and a set of clean white undergarments/or a white bathing suit and a white bathrobe
- II. 1 medium sized towel to step on when emerging from the font
- III. White sippers

**Gratuities:** Gratuities are to be given in envelopes with respect as with all church services. There is a suggested gratuity for the priest, chanter and a \$50 clean church fee for the Sexton.

**Photography:** We encourage photography to capture your special day. We only ask that photographers avoid standing on the Ambo (altar stairs) and to not interfere with the Baptism itself.

**Traditionally:** The Newly Baptized is brought to the church for the next 3 Sundays in their white clothes and with their candle, to receive Holy Communion. If it is possible the Godparent will also come; but it is more important for the parents to bring the child. If you have a baby please bring them up holding them in your right arm facing the priest.

**Clothes and Towels:** When you are ready to wash the clothes and towels, first, put them into a container and rinse out the “Holy Oils” and put this in a flower bed, as we say “a place where no foot steps”. Then throw everything in the wash. The clothes and towels are now yours to remember this very special day.

**Use of the Hall:** If you would like to use the hall for the reception, this is possible, for a suggested donation. Please ask a member of the Parish Council for availability and details.