

The Order of Baptism (Infant or Adult)

Before the Baptism

If the baptism happens without the Divine Liturgy following, the priest prepares the Holy Gifts in this way ... He takes a particle from the Holy Gifts in the artoforion and places it on the Communion spoon which sits on a clean kalima upon the Holy Table. He places a small amount of unconsecrated wine on the particle and then covers the spoon on the kalima with the star. The star over the spoon is then covered with a veil.

Reception into the Catechumenate

The priest, vested in stole (and phelonion and cuffs if it be the custom) comes out of the Sanctuary and goes to the vestibule of the Church where the sponsors with the child await him. If the Divine Liturgy follows directly after the baptism, the priest may be fully vested.

The priest breathes gently in the face of the child. He makes the Sign of the Cross over the child and lays his right hand upon the child's head.

- **Deacon:** "Let us pray to the Lord," **Chanter:** "Lord, have mercy."
- **Priest:** "In Thy Name, O Lord of truth,..." **Chanter:** "Amen."
- **First Exorcism. Priest:** "The Lord puts you under ban, O Devil ..." **Chanter:** "Amen."
- **Second Exorcism. Deacon:** "Let us pray to the Lord." **Chanter:** "Lord, have mercy." **Priest:** "God, holy, awesome and glorious..." **Chanter:** Amen.
- **Third Exorcism. Deacon:** "Let us pray to the Lord." **Chanter:** "Lord, have mercy." **Priest:** "O Lord of Sabaoth, the God of Israel..." **Chanter:** Amen.
- **A Fourth Prayer. Deacon:** "Let us pray to the Lord." **Chanter:** "Lord, have mercy." **Priest:** "O Lord and Master,..."

The sponsors with the child (or the one to be baptised if he be an adult) turn around and face the West. The priest then asks the following question three times:

- **Priest:** "Do you renounce Satan..."

The sponsors with the child (or adult) now turn around back to the East, and they stand facing the priest.

- **The priest** asks them three times: "Do you unite yourself to Christ?" (three times) and each time the sponsor, or the one to be baptised if he be an adult, answers:....
- **The Symbol of Faith...**
- After the **Creed**, the Priest makes the following inquiry three times: **Priest:** "Have you united yourself to Christ?" (three times). The child (or Sponsor) responds each time:...
- **Deacon:** "Let us pray to the Lord." **Chanter:** "Lord, have mercy." **Priest:** "O Master, Lord our God,..."
Chanter: "Amen."

The Order of Holy Baptism

The priest leads the sponsors with the child into the Baptistry, or to the place where Baptism is usually administered.

- **Priest:** “Blessed is the Kingdom” **Chanter:** “Amen.” **Deacon: The Great Litany.**
- **Priest:** O compassionate and merciful God... **Chanter:** Amen.
- **The Blessing of the Baptismal Water Priest:** “Great art Thou, O Lord, and marvellous are Thy works, and there is no word which suffices to hymn Thy wonders.” (three times). “For Thou, of Thine own good will...” **Chanter:** Amen.
- **Priest:** “Peace be with you all.” **Chanter:** “And with your spirit.” **Deacon:** “Bow your heads to the Lord.” **Chanter:** “To Thee, O Lord.”
- **The Blessing of the Oil of the Catechumens:** *The priest breathes upon the vessel containing the oil (x3) and likewise makes the Sign of the Cross over it (x3) with his right hand.* **Deacon:** “Let us pray to the Lord.” **Chanter:** “Lord, have mercy.” **Priest:** “O Lord and Master” **Chanter:** Amen. **Deacon:** “Let us attend!”
- *The priest makes the Sign of the Cross three times in the water with the oil. Each time he chants:* **Priest:** “Let us attend.” **Chanter:** “Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!” (3x). **Priest:** “Blessed is God, Who illumineth and sanctifieth every man that comes into the world, now and ever and unto ages of ages.” **Chanter:** “Amen.”
- **The Anointing.** *The priest proceeds to anoint the one to be baptised. He dips his two fingers (or the brush) into the blessed oil and traces the Sign of the Cross on the child as follows: On the forehead, chest and back, ears, feet and hands, saying:...* “The servant of God is anointed with the Oil of Gladness ...”

The Baptism

- *After the anointing, the priest takes the child for baptism. Holding the child upright and facing toward the East, the priest immerses the child in the baptismal water three times, saying:* **Priest:** “The servant of God, _____, is baptised...”

The Order of Holy Chrismation

- **Priest:** “Blessed are Thou, O Lord God Almighty...” **Chanter:** “Amen.”
- *The priest dips his fingers (or the brush) into the Holy Chrism and anoints the newly baptised person, tracing the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, the eyes, the nostrils, the lips, on both ears, the breast, the hands and the feet, and saying each time:* **Priest:** “The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.” **Chanter:** “Amen.”
- *The priest read the three prayers (below) before the ablutions.*

The Rites of Ablution, Clothing and Tonsure.

- **Deacon:** “Let us pray to the Lord.” **Chanter:** “Lord, have mercy.” **Priest:** “O Thou Who, through holy Baptism, hast given unto Thy servant...” **Chanter:** “Amen.”
A Second Prayer. **Deacon:** “Let us pray to the Lord.” **Chanter:** “Lord, have mercy.” **Priest:** “O Master, Lord our God, Who through the Font...” **Chanter:** “Amen.”
Priest: “Peace be with you all.” **Chanter:** “And with your spirit.” **A Third Prayer.** **Deacon:** “Bow your heads unto the Lord.” **Chanter:** “To Thee, O Lord.”
Priest: “He (she) who has clothed himself (herself) in Thee...” **Chanter:** “Amen.”
- *The priest washes off the surplus Chrism with fresh, clean water, over the font; the sponsor holding the child under the arms for the priest. Before the clothing the priest blesses the new garment with his hand saying: “The servant of God ____ is clothed:...” and the chanter sings: “Grant to me a luminous robe....”*
- *During the clothing (if it will take a time), the chanter intones Ps. 31 or the festal katavasiae - if appointed.*

- *At the end of the clothing the priest says: "You are justified. You are illumined. You are sanctified. You are washed: in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God," and: "You are baptised. You are illumined. You have been Chrismated. You are sanctified. You are washed: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Chanter: Amen.*
- The **priest** leads the Sponsors and child in a circular procession around the Baptismal Font. Everyone sings:
- All: "As many as have been baptised into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia!" (3x) Glory to the... **Procession from narthex / baptistery into the nave.**
- **The Epistle: Deacon: Wisdom! Reader: "The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans." Deacon: "Let us attend." Reader: (Romans 6:3-11) "Brethren:..."**
- **The Gospel: Deacon: "Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel." Priest: "Peace be unto all..."**
- **The Tonsure: Deacon: "Let us pray to the Lord." Chanter: "Lord, have mercy." Priest: "O Master, Lord our God:..." People: "Amen."**
- **Priest: "Peace be with you all." Chanter: "And with your spirit." Deacon: "Bow your heads unto the Lord." Chanter: "To Thee, O Lord." Priest: "O Lord our God, through the fulfilling of the baptismal font,:""... Chanter: "Amen."**

Taking the scissors, the Priest cuts the hair of the child in the form of a cross, saying:

- **Priest: "The servant of God, _____, is tonsured: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Chanter: "Amen."**

The Communion (if the Divine Liturgy is not to follow directly)

Having prepared the Holy Gifts before the service, the priest now communes the child (or adult) in the usual manner, during which the chanter may sing "Of thy Mystic Supper..." ONLY the baptised person receives Holy Communion at this time. The sponsor, the family and the newly illumined should receive Holy Communion together at the Divine Liturgy at the earliest opportunity.

- **The Augmented Litany: Deacon: "Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken, and have mercy." Chanter: "Lord, have mercy." (3x)**
- **The Dismissal: Priest: "Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to Thee!" Chanter: "Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, Bless:"**
Priest: "May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of His all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of Saint _____ (the patron Saint of the Temple); of Saint _____ (the Saint of the day); of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind. "
Chanter: Amen

NOTE: If the Divine Liturgy follows directly after the baptism ...

The Liturgy continues from the Little Entrance immediately after the Augmented Litany (above). The newly illumined should receive Holy Communion first (after the clergy).

The re-ordering suggested in the Antiochian Service Book for the service from the chrismation onwards is **not** blessed for use in this Archdiocese. Our Metropolitan has instructed and blessed the re-ordering of this section as indicated in the **third** column below. It is this re-ordering that is followed in detail in pages 2-3 here.

ANTIOCHIAN SERVICE BOOK TRADITIONAL ORDER	ANTIOCHIAN SERVICE BOOK REORDERING FOR AN INFANT	BLESSED ORDER FOR THIS ARCHDIOCESE (INFANTS & ADULTS)
Clothing with Psalm 31	Chrismation	Prayer of the Chrism
Prayer of the Chrism	Tonsuring	Chrismation
Chrismation	Clothing	1 st Prayer of Ablution
“As many as have been baptised” (3x around the font)	Prayer of the Chrism	2 nd Prayer of Ablution
Epistle and Gospel	1 st Prayer of Ablution	3 rd Prayer of Ablution
Holy Communion (if no Liturgy following)	2 nd Prayer of Ablution	Washing off the surplus Divine Chrism with fresh, clean water by the priest, over the font, the sponsor holding the child under the arms for the priest.
1 st Prayer of Ablution	1 st Prayer of Tonsure	Clothing with Psalm 31, at the end of which the priest says: “You have been baptised, you have been illumined”
2 nd Prayer of Ablution	“As many as have been baptised” (3x around the font)	“As many as have been baptised” (Procession 3x around the font)
3 rd Prayer of Ablution	Epistle and Gospel	Epistle and Gospel
Sponging off the chrism: “You have been baptised, you have been illumined”	Holy Communion (if no Liturgy following)	1 st Prayer of Tonsure
1 st Prayer of Tonsure	3 rd Prayer of Ablution	2 nd Prayer of Tonsure
2 nd Prayer of Tonsure	Sponging off the chrism: “You have been baptised, you have been illumined”	Tonsuring
Tonsuring	2 nd Prayer of Tonsure	Holy Communion (if no Divine Liturgy following)
Augmented Litany	Augmented Litany	Augmented Litany
Dismissal OR the Divine Liturgy continues from the Little Entrance	Dismissal OR the Divine Liturgy continues from the Little Entrance	Dismissal OR the Divine Liturgy continues from the Little Entrance