

## The Blessing of Homes with Holy Water

**To schedule the blessing of your home with the holy water and a pastoral visit, please fill out the form at the bottom of this page and mail it back to Fr. Bratso or contact him directly at [frbratso@sbcglobal.net](mailto:frbratso@sbcglobal.net) or 619-276-5827 or cell phone 619-316-2362. Thank you!**

**Q. Why are the homes of Orthodox Christians sprinkled with the holy water?**

**A.** In one of the prayers we use during the blessing of water, we hear the following words: “For those who will take of this holy water for the blessing of their homes, let us pray to the Lord that this water might be for the cleansing of the souls and bodies of those who, with faith, will take of it and will drink of it, let us pray to the Lord.” The blessing of the water and sprinkling of our homes therewith and drinking thereof is neither just a tradition nor a superstition, but rather a living and visible sign of God’s presence among us. The drawing and keeping of Holy Water, the sprinkling therewith and drinking thereof, is one part of our response to God’s goodness to us. Every time during the year when we feel the need (not just during illness), we should draw from the holy water and use it, for that is why we keep it in our homes.

**Q. In what way and how long do we keep holy water?**

**A.** Every home should have a specific glass container which is used only for the preservation of Holy Water. Holy Water cannot spoil nor change in any way and could be preserved and used during an unlimited period of time. If we still have Holy Water left over from the previous year, we can simply add the new Holy Water to it, and continue to do so from year to year. Holy Water should not be thrown out!

**Q. Why does the priest visit the home and bring Holy Water with him?**

**A.** Entering the homes of Orthodox Christians, the priest first of all brings God’s blessing. The priest never goes anywhere in his own behalf, but is always on a mission; for with his words, deeds, and especially with the Holy Rites, he preaches Him Who has said: “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Visiting the homes of his parishioners, the priest, as an instrument of God’s grace and as a spiritual father, brings Christ’s peace with him. Visiting every home in his parish, the priest, in fact visits the home church, for every home is “called” to be a small church. Receiving the priest in their homes, the Orthodox Christians receive God’s grace which the priest brings to them, the grace which is given through Holy Water as well as the saving power of the Holy and Precious and Lifegiving Cross.

**Q. What all needs to be prepared for the priest’s coming to our home?**

**A.** It is important that on a clean table we prepare the following: a bowl of water (into which the priest will pour Holy Water), a candle, an icon (of Lord Jesus Christ, or Blessed Mother of God, or your Slava Icon), and a list of names (of the living and deceased family members).

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Our Family would like to schedule our home blessing (please detach and return to Fr. Bratso Krsic in the envelope provided):

1. (Our first option) Date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

2. (Our second option) Date and time: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Names (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.:H. \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_