

Baptisms at the Exarchate Parish of St. John the Baptist in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

On June 28, 2013 (Old Style), the infant daughter of the Pastor of the Church of the Holy Archangels in Romney, IN, Father Joshua Vander Plaats, and his wife, Presbyteria Charis, was baptized by Protospesbyter Father Raphael Abraham at the St. John the Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The sponsor was Dr. Anna Douglas of Lafayette, IN. The angelic infant (*at left*) was given the name “Raphaela.”



Afterwards, an entire family was received into Orthodoxy by Baptism: the father, Kyros Lantzer, a registered nurse, who was named after the Holy Unmercenary Physician St. Kyros and baptized by Father Joshua Vander Plaats; the mother, Hannah, baptized by Father Raphael and named after the mother of the Holy Prophet Samuel; and their three children. The children were baptized by Father John Abraham: Uriah, named after the soldier of the Holy Prophet David; Symeon, named after the Righteous Symeon the God-Receiver; and Annaleis (Anna Elizabeth), named after the Prophetess Anna. The family was formerly Protestant by confession.

Immediately after their Baptisms, Kyros and Hannah Lantzer were joined in an Orthodox marriage ceremony, performed by Father John Abraham, with John Davis and Rebecca Ruddy standing as sponsors; i.e., *κουμπάρος* (*koumbaros*, or best man) and *κουμπάρα* (*koumbara*, or bridesmaid).

Below, the newly enlightened (baptized) with (*left to right, at center*) Father John Abraham, Father Raphael Abraham (*in back*), and Father Joshua Vander Plaats, with two of the sponsors, Presbyteria Charis (*far left*) and Rebecca Ruddy (*holding the infant Raphaela*).

