

***YOUR GUIDE TO ADULT CONVERSION
TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH
at
ST. SOPHIA'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH***



***SYRACUSE, NY
METROPOLIS OF DETROIT***

The Sacrament of Chrismation (conversion to the Orthodox faith)

The following information is designed to give you a greater understanding of what is required to schedule a chrismation (confirmation) at Saint Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church.

Baptism/Chrismation are included in the seven major sacraments of the Orthodox Faith. The seven sacraments are: the Eucharist (Communion), Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), Confession, Marriage, Holy Unction (The sacrament of healing) and Holy Ordination. Anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of his or her life and accepts the doctrines and tenets of the Orthodox Church as the only steadfast way to salvation is eligible for the sacrament of baptism and/or chrismation.

Adults wishing to convert and schedule a baptism and/or chrismation must first meet with Fr. David for catechumen training. A "catechumen" is a person who has expressed interest in becoming Orthodox and has agreed to start the process of learning the basics of the faith. Catechumen classes sometimes happen in a group, and sometimes individually.

After the classes have been completed, the catechumen must schedule a "first confession" with Fr. David, preferably very close to the time of the sacrament of chrismation. Fr. David will guide the new Orthodox through the sacrament of confession. The book "Making the Most of Your Confession" is available free of charge in the Church bookstore, the Philo-Sophia Bookstore.

The sacrament will typically occur at the beginning of a Divine Liturgy on a Sunday, just before 10 am.

The new Orthodox Christian should become a steward of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church by filling out his/her first stewardship card. After that, a new stewardship pledge must be submitted every year.

Many have asked for guidance on how much the annual stewardship donation should be. The parish council has set a guideline of between 1% and 2% of your household annual income. The amount of your gift is between you and God, this is only a guide. No one will ask for verification.