

difference between the ages of the male spiritual children and the female spiritual children of the same godparent.

Because a clergyman has a pre-existent and superior spiritual relationship to the people of God, it is not appropriate for a Deacon, Priest, or Bishop to be a sponsor. As physical relationships are not duplicated, neither should spiritual relationships be duplicated.

The Sponsor is referred to as the “nouns.” A godfather is a “nounó,” and a godmother is a “nouná.”

Receiving through Chrismation Those Previously Baptized in a Non-Orthodox Christian Faith

An individual may be received into the Orthodox Church by oikonomía through Chrismation, if they were previously Baptized:

In water;

In the “Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit;”

By a church or denomination that has an expressed belief in the Most Holy Trinity.

The parish priest is responsible for verifying how a person was previously baptized, and he submits his recommendation to the Metropolitan.

When a previously Baptized convert is received into the Church by oikonomía through Chrismation, the Service is normally held at the end of Matins, just before the beginning of the Divine Liturgy.

Receiving Orthodox Christians Separated From the Church

Previously Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christians who have apostatized from the True Faith, typically through formal association with a non-Orthodox faith, are received back into the Church through the Mysteries of Confession and/or Chrismation. In all cases the parish priest will consult with the Metropolitan.

Previously Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christians from certain Orthodox jurisdictions not in Communion with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese may be received through the Mystery of Confession.

Marriage of Couples Received into the Orthodox Church

Couples previously married outside of the Orthodox Church who are subsequently received into the Church through Baptism and/or Chrismation should be Married according to the rite of the Orthodox Church.

