



TWELVE HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

632 East Second Street, Duluth, MN 55805 • Telephone: (218) 722-5957

Web: www.12holyapostles.org • E-mail: frdunstanlyon@mail.goarch.org

Chrismation

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-17)

The Chrismation Service is how the Orthodox Church receives people into the Church who are coming from other Christian denominations. Chrismation, which isn't a long service, is an anointing with a special oil, called chrism, that is blessed by our Patriarch of Constantinople.

Becoming an Orthodox Christian is a big step in someone's life. It's a journey of salvation with the end goal of being united to our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. Because chrismation is taken very seriously, Fr. Dustin requires that candidates spend a few months getting to know Orthodoxy and the local parish. This includes regularly attending services and getting to know how Orthodox Christians worship. There are also a few other requirements that must be met in order for someone to be chrismated at Twelve Holy Apostles.

Baptism

In order to be received by chrismation, you have to have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Catholic Church and many Protestant churches still use this baptismal formula, but some do not. If you have been baptized with the Trinitarian formula, please obtain a copy of your baptismal certificate for Fr. Dustin. If you have not been baptized in this way, you will be received into the Orthodox Church through baptism.

Classes

In keeping with the ancient tradition of the Church, the first step to joining the Orthodox Church is to go through catechism classes. These are instructional classes led by the priest. In our classes at Twelve Holy Apostles, we cover church history, Orthodox theology, prayer, and other practical matters. These classes prepare you for a life-long journey in the Church. See Fr. Dustin for the current schedule of classes.

Sponsors:

When you are chrismated, you will need a sponsor (also known as a godparent). Their role is to help you, answer questions, and to pray for you as the newest member of the community. The sponsor needs to be in good standing with an Orthodox Church. If they are not members of Twelve Holy Apostles, then they need to obtain a letter from their parish priest stating that they are in good standing in their home parish (financially *and* spiritually), and that they are able to participate in the sacraments of the Orthodox Church. If you have a sponsor in mind, please speak with Fr. Dustin *before* asking them to be your sponsor. If you need help, Fr. Dustin is more than happy to make some suggestions.



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Administrative

The Metropolis now uses an online registry system for baptism and chrismation certificates. To ensure proper processing, **please submit the required forms 4-6 weeks in advance** of your desired sacrament date. The Registrar will then prepare a physical certificate to be signed by the priest and sponsors during the ceremony. **Contact Fr. Dustin to schedule both your form completion appointment and your sacrament date.**

Required Information: When meeting with Fr. Dustin to complete the online form, please bring a valid ID and the following information:

- Your full name, current address, and birth date
- The name, address, and denomination of your former church
- Your original baptism certificate

Please note that there is no fee for chrismations.

On the day of chrismation, you will need:

- An Orthodox cross on a chain (This may be provided by your sponsor)
- A candle (you may use ones from the church)

After the chrismation, a certificate will be issued. Please keep this in a safe place. You will need it if you transfer to a new Orthodox parish, decide to get married, decide to become ordained, or, for some reason, need to provide a record of your chrismation.

We will be praying for you as you discern whether or not you want to join the Orthodox Church and experience timeless Christianity. If there's any thing we can do to help you on this journey, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Dustin.

God bless.