

Days When Marriage Is Not Permitted

January 5-6; Great Lent and Holy Week; August 1-15; August 29 (Beheading of St. John the Baptist); September 14 (Exaltation of the Holy Cross); December 13-25; the day before and on major Feastdays including Pentecost, Christmas, Pascha, etc., and all Holy Days of Our Lord. A wedding may be conducted on these days only if absolutely necessary, and then only by special permission of the local Metropolitan.

Inter-Christian Marriage

The Orthodox Church blesses inter-Christian marriages under the following conditions:

1. The non-Orthodox partner must be a Christian who has been baptized in water in the name of the Holy Trinity.
2. The couple should commit to baptize their children in the Orthodox Church and nurture them in accordance with the Orthodox Faith.

Marriage to a Non-Christian Person

It should be noted that a marriage between an Orthodox Christian and a non-Christian person (i.e., someone who has not been baptized in the name of the Trinity) *cannot* be blessed unless and until that person becomes a Christian and is baptized. An Orthodox Christian who is contemplating entering into a marriage with a non-Christian person is encouraged to speak with a priest about the potentially serious consequences of such a decision.

Marriage Outside the Orthodox Church

A married Orthodox Christian whose wedding has not been blessed by the Orthodox Church is no longer in good standing with the Church and is consequently ineligible to receive the sacraments of the Church, including Holy Communion, or to serve as a sponsor at an Orthodox wedding, baptism, or chrismation. An Orthodox Christian who has been married outside the Church and who wishes to be reconciled to the Church is encouraged to schedule a meeting with the priest to discuss having his or her marriage be blessed in the Orthodox Church.