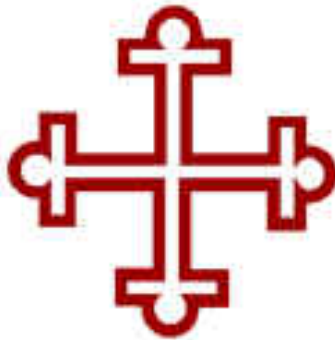


# **THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM AND CHRISMATION**



**Saint Ambrose of Milan Orthodox Church  
Putnam Valley, New York  
AD 2001**

*Holy Baptism and Chrismation is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into The Body of Christ: the Orthodox Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.*

*Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Liturgy on a Sunday or other feast. Appropriate times are The Great Vigil of Pascha, Pentecost, The Baptism of Our Lord and All Saints Day,*

*The priest is the usual minister of the Baptism using Chrism previously consecrated by the Bishop. If there are baptisms for Pascha it is appropriate during Lent that this service may be done in several stages leading to Baptism and Chrismation during the Great Vigil of Pascha.*

*Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized Orthodox persons.*

*Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates. It is fitting that the godparents are practicing Orthodox Christians because of the iconographic nature of their responsibility.*

*Parents and godparents are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help the new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of his Church.*

*Besides a pool of water for Baptism, the following is also to be prepared beforehand:*

- \* The vessels of The Oil of Catechumens, Holy Chrism, and Blessed Salt.*
- \* Cotton for cleansing.*
- \* A dish with a slice of bread and a slice of lemon.*
- \* Purple and white stoles and a white cope if desired.*
- \* A white alb for the newly baptized.*
- \* Candles and incense.*

*Adult Candidates are to be wearing a bathing suit and bring a bathrobe and white towels. They should also plan to wear clothes and shoes that are easily put on.*

*On the **First Sunday in Lent**, the Candidate comes to the door of the church after the collect and knocks loudly three times. The door is opened by the deacon. The priest, standing before the candidate asks :*

*Priest:* What do you seek?

*Candidate:* Illumination.

*Priest:* What does Illumination offer you?

*Candidate:* The Way, the Truth, and Eternal Life.

*Priest:* If then, you desire to enter into life, the Lord has shown you what is good, and this is what he requires of you:

To do justly, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and all your soul, and with all your mind;  
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

*The Candidate is now led into the narthex of the church where the Exorcism takes place:*

### **The Simple Exorcism**

*Priest:* The Holy, awesome, and glorious God, inscrutable and incomprehensible in all His works, has destined the Evil One to eternal damnation. Through His unworthy servants He commands deliverance for all who desire life in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, our true God.

I exorcise you, evil, unclean, vile, loathsome, and alien spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ who possesses all power and authority in heaven and on earth.

Come out, ✠ in the Name of the Father,  
Come out, ✠ in the Name of the Son,  
Come out, ✠ in the Name of the Holy Spirit,  
Depart from *him/her* who is being prepared for holy  
illumination in the name of the Holy Trinity.

For power and glory belongs to Christ our God, with  
the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to  
ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

### **The Collect of The Exorcism**

*Deacon:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* O Lord and Master, You made man in Your own icon  
and likeness and enabled him to know eternal life; and  
when he fell through sin, You did not abandon him, but  
by the Incarnation of Your Anointed One, You planned  
the salvation of the world. Having now freed this Your  
creature from the bondage of the enemy, receive *him/her*  
into Your heavenly kingdom. Open the eyes of *his/her*  
understanding, that the light of Your Gospel may  
enlighten *him/her*. Wed *him/her* in life to a radiant angel,  
to safeguard *him/her* from every plot of the adversary,  
from every evil encounter, from the noonday devil, and  
from evil visions.

*The Priest breathes three times in the form of a Cross on the heart of the catechumen, then lays hands upon the candidate saying:*

Drive out from *him/her* every evil and unclean spirit, hiding and lurking in her heart:

The spirit of error, the spirit of evil, the spirit of idolatry and of all covetousness, and of all the works according to the teaching of the devil.

Give place now to the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Make *him/her* a reason-endowed sheep of the holy flock of Your Christ, and an honorable member of Your Church, a hallowed vessel, a child of light, and an heir of Your kingdom. So that, having guarded the seal and kept it unbroken, and having preserved *his/her* garment undefiled, *he/she* may attain to the blessedness of the saints, in Your kingdom. Through the grace and compassion and love for mankind of Your only, begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and for all ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

## **The Anointing of The Catechumen The Signing of The Senses**

*On the **Third Sunday of Lent** after the Collect the clergy go to the narthex where the signing is done with Oil of the Catechumens by the priest or deacon. The signing of each sense is followed by an acclamation.*

*While the ears are being signed, the priest says:*

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears,  
that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

*People:* Amen!

*While the eyes, are being signed:*

Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes,  
that you may see the glory of God!

*People:* Amen!

*While the lips are being signed:*

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips,  
That you may respond to the word of God.

*People:* Amen!

*While the breast is being signed:*

Receive the sign of the cross over your heart,  
that Christ may dwell there by faith.

*People:* Amen!

*While the back is being signed:*

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders,  
that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

*People:* Amen!

*While the hands are being signed:*

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands,  
that Christ may be known in the work which you do.

*People:* Amen!

*While the feet are being signed:*

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet,  
that you may walk in the way of Christ.

*People:* Amen!

*Without touching them, the priest makes the sign of the cross over all the candidates at once (or, if they are few, over each individually); saying:*

I sign you with the sign of eternal life in the name of the  
Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* Amen!

### **The Presentation of Salt**

*The priest presents Blessed Salt to the Candidate by placing some on the tongue.*

*Priest:* **N.**, receive the salt of wisdom; may it preserve you to  
eternal life and cause you to thirst for the kingdom of  
God and his righteousness.

### **The Entrance into the Church**

*On the **Fifth Sunday of Lent** after the Collect, the priest goes to the  
narthex and extending the left side of his stole to be held by the candidate  
now leads him/her, followed by the others into the nave of the church for  
the lessons saying:*

**N.**, enter into the temple of God that you may receive  
the blessing of Christ and have a part with Him and all  
the saints in life everlasting.



*The candidate stands before the priest. The priest prepares the candidate to hear the Word of God. With his thumb (and spittle, if he so chooses), he touches the ears and nostrils of the candidate, saying:*

Ephphata: Be opened...

*And touching the nostrils, he says:*

to savor the sweetness of God's Word and Holy Mysteries.

You, O Devil, flee away, for the judgment of God is at hand.

*The priest may direct the praying of the following Litany here or later:*

### **The Litany for the Candidates**

*Priest:* Let us pray for *these* elect whom the Church has confidently chosen. May *they* successfully complete *their* long preparation and at the paschal feast find Christ in his Holy Mysteries.

*Deacon:* That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts, and savor its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That they may learn to know Christ who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord:

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That they may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That *they* may sincerely reject everything in *their* lives, that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That the Holy Spirit, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid may help them to overcome their weaknesses through his power, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That, the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please Him, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in Him, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That each of us who prepare for the Paschal Feast may seek a change of heart, give ourselves over to prayer and fasting, and persevere in good works, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That throughout the whole world whoever is weak may be strengthened; whoever is broken, restored; whoever is lost, found; and whoever is found, redeemed, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That, like the woman of Samaria, our elect may review their lives before Christ and acknowledge their sins, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That they may be freed from the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk; and that the Lord may give, instead, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love granting them the grace to see their own transgressions and not to judge their brother, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That while awaiting the gift of God, they may long with all their hearts for the living water that brings eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That by accepting the Son of God as their teacher, they may become true worshipers of the Father in Spirit and in Truth, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That they may share with their friends and neighbors the wonder of their own meeting with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That those whose lives are empty for want of the word of God may come to the Gospel of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That all of us may learn from Christ to do the Father's will in love, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

*Priest:* Let us pray.

Almighty and all-powerful God, You sent Your only begotten Son to be our savior. Grant that *this/these* catechumen(s) who, like the woman of Samaria thirst for living water, may turn to the Lord as *they* have heard his word and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses which weigh *them* down. Protect *them* from vain reliance on self and defend *them*, from the power of Satan. Free *them* from the spirit of deceit, so that, admitting the wrong *they* have done, *they* may attain purity of heart and advance on the way to salvation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for all ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*The Candidates now sit in the congregation to hear the scriptures and the teaching, and are dismissed before the Creed.*

## **The Great Vigil of Pascha The Presentation and Examination of the Candidates**

*After the readings of the Prophecies, the Priest says:*

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*The Candidates stand facing the West. The Priest faces the East.*

## **Adults and Older Children**

*The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows*

*Sponsor:* I present *N.* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*The priest asks each candidate when presented*

Do you desire to be baptized?

*Candidate:* I do.

*If only adults are being baptized go to the Solemn Exorcism :*

## **Infants and Younger Children**

*Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows*

*Parents and Godparents:*

I present *N.* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*When all have been presented the priest asks the parents and godparents:*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Orthodox Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents:*

I will, with God's help.

*Priest:* Will you by your example, prayers and witness help this child to grow into full spiritual maturity in Christ?

*Parents and Godparents:*

I will, with God's help.

**The Solemn Exorcism**

*Priest:* I exorcise you unclean spirit in the name of  
✠ God the Father Almighty, and in the name of  
✠ Jesus Christ his Son, and in the power of  
✠ the Holy Spirit.

Depart forever from this creature of God, **N**.

For the Lord has been pleased to call *him/her* to be his holy temple.

May *he/she* become a living temple of God and the Holy Spirit abide in *him/her*: through the same Jesus Christ who will come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire.

*People:* Amen.

**The Renunciation of Evil**

*Then the priest asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children*

*Question:* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer:* I renounce them.

*Question:* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer:* I renounce them.

*Question:* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer:* I renounce them.

*The priest now faces West and the candidate turns to the East.*

*Question:* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer:* I do.

*Question:* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer:* I do.

*Question:* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord within his Body: The One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church?

*Answer:* I do.

*The priest addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

*People:* We will.

## **The Anointing with the Oil of The Catechumens**

*The priest now anoints the candidate with the Oil of Catechumens once on the breast at the base of the neck and once on the back between the shoulders saying only once:*

I anoint you ✠ with the Oil of Salvation,  
in the Name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

*The Priest then cleanses his thumb and changes from purple to white vestments.*

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Priest:* Let us join with *those* who are committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Do you believe in God the Father?

*People:* I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

*Priest:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People:* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*Priest:* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People:* I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

*Priest:* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People:* I will, with God's help.



*Priest:* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

*Priest:* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

*Priest:* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

*Priest:* Will you strive for peace among all people, and respect life in every human being?

*People:* I will, with God's help.

### **The Prayers for the Candidates**

*The Priest then says to the congregation:*

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *are* to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*The Deacon leads the following petitions:*

*Deacon:* Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People:* Lord, we ask You, hear our prayer.

*Deacon:* Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

*People:* Lord, we ask You, hear our prayer.

*Deacon:* Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People:* Lord, we ask You, hear our prayer.

*Deacon:* Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People:* Lord, we ask You, hear our prayer.

*Deacon:* Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People:* Lord, we ask You, hear our prayer.

*Deacon:* Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

*People:* Lord, we ask You, hear our prayer.

*Deacon:* Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People:* Lord, we ask You, hear our prayer.

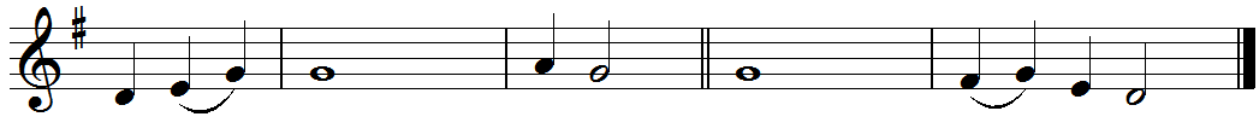
*The Priest says:*

Let us pray:

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, Your Son may live in the power of His resurrection and look for Him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns, now and forever.

*People:* Amen.

*The Candidate now retires to the sacristy to undress. If an adult s/he will have been wearing a bathing suit and a bath robe. If an Infant or small child he/she is naked. White towels are brought to the church by the candidates for the baptism. During this time, or on the way to the pool of water the following psalm is sung:*



As the deer longs for the water-brooks, \*  
so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; \*  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my food day and night, \*  
while all day long they say to me,  
"Where now is your God?"

I pour out my soul when I think on these things: \*  
how I went with the multitude  
and led them into the house of God.

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, \*  
among those who keep holy-day.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? \*  
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God; \*  
for I will yet give thanks to him,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

My soul is heavy within me; \*  
therefore I will remember you from the land of  
Jordan,  
and from the peak of Mizar  
among the heights of Hermon.

One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; \*  
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.

The LORD grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; \*  
in the night season his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

I will say to the God of my strength, ↓  
"Why have you forgotten me? \*  
and why do I go so heavily  
while the enemy oppresses me?"

While my bones are being broken, \*  
my enemies mock me to my face;

All day long they mock me \*  
and say to me "Where now is your God?"

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? \*  
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God; \*  
for I will yet give thanks to him,  
who is the help of my countenance and my God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son ↓ and to the Holy  
Spirit \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever,  
for all ages of ages. Amen.

*When the Priest, Deacon, Candidate, Sponsors, and People have gathered around the pool of water, the Priest begins:*

## **The Thanksgiving over the Water**

*The priest blesses the water, first saying*

The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

*Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Priest:* We thank You, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it You led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it Your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through His death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank You, Father, for the water of Baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in His death.

By it we share in His resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to Your Son, we bring into His fellowship those who come to Him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the priest lays his hand on the water and may scatter it in four directions:*

Now sanctify this water, we pray You, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To Him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

*People:* Amen.

*The Priest now incenses the font.*

*Where it is the custom, the priest may pour the Oil of the Catechumens and Sacred Chrism into the font or river in the form of a cross saying:*

May this commingling of the Chrism of Sanctification, and of the Oil of Anointing with the waters of Baptism be blessed in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* Amen.

*The Priest now turns to the Candidate and says:*

*N., Will you be baptized?*

*Candidate:* I will!

## The Baptism

*Each candidate is presented by name to the priest by the deacon, who then assists them into the font. The Priest then places a hand on the candidates head and immerses him or her three times, saying:*

*N.*, I baptize you in the Name  
of the Father, *(1st immersion)*  
and of the Son, *(2nd immersion)*  
and of the Holy Spirit. *(3rd immersion)*

*People:* Amen.

*or the following formula may be used:*

The servant (or handmaiden) of God *N.* is baptized in  
the name of the Father, *(1st immersion)*  
and of the Son, *(2nd immersion)*  
and of the Holy Spirit. *(3rd immersion)*

*People:* Amen.

*The Priest dries his hands and as the Newly Baptized emerges from the water he says:*

May the Holy Spirit come upon you  
and the power of the Most High preserve you from sin.

*The procession quietly returns to the church.*

## The Chrismation

*The Newly Baptized retires to the sacristy with his or her sponsors to dress.*

*Meanwhile the Priest may direct a psalm or hymn to be sung or the following:*

## The Litany for the Newly Baptized

*Priest:* Let us pray for the Newly Baptized whom the Church has confidently chosen. May *they* successfully complete *their* journey of life and find Christ in his Holy Mysteries.

*Deacon:* That they may ponder the word of God in their hearts, and savor its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That they may learn to know Christ who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord:

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That they may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That they may sincerely reject everything in their lives, that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That the Holy Spirit, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid may help them to overcome their weaknesses through his power, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.



*Deacon:* That, the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That their families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in him, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That each of us who prepare for the Holy Mysteries may seek a change of heart, give ourselves over to prayer and fasting, and persevere in good works, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That throughout the whole world whoever is weak may be strengthened; whoever is broken, restored; whoever is lost, found; and whoever is found, redeemed, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That, like the woman of Samaria, we may review our lives before Christ and acknowledge our sins, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That we may be freed from the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk; and that the Lord may give us, instead, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love granting us the grace to see our own transgressions and not to judge each other, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That while awaiting the gift of Holy Spirit, they may give thanks with all their hearts for the living water that brings eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That by accepting the Son of God as our teacher, we may become true worshipers of the Father in spirit and in truth, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That we may share with our friends and neighbors the wonder of our own meeting with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That those whose lives are empty for want of the word of God may come to the Gospel of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Deacon:* That all of us may learn from Christ to do the Father's will in love, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Grant it, O Lord.

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*People:* And with your spirit.

*Priest:* Let us pray.

Almighty and all-powerful God, You sent Your only begotten Son to be our savior. Grant that the Newly Baptized who, like the woman of Samaria thirst for living water, may turn to the Lord as *they* have heard His word and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses which weigh *them* down. Protect *them* from vain reliance on self and defend *them*, from the power of Satan. Free *them* from the spirit of deceit, so that, admitting the wrong *they* have done, *they* may attain purity of heart and advance on the way to salvation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for all ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*The Newly Baptized, now dressed in white and/or wearing an alb, come and stand before the priest accompanied by Sponsors. If it was not done earlier, the Baptismal garment is put on the Newly Baptized. The priest says:*

**N.**, you have put on the Lord Jesus Christ. You have become a new creation being clothed in Christ Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. You have put on this baptismal garment. Bring it unstained to the judgment seat of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life.

*People:* Amen.

*The Priest prays over them saying:*

Let us pray.

Lord God, you who have made these worthy of the removal of sins through the bath of regeneration, make them worthy to be filled with your Holy Spirit, grant to them your grace, that they might serve you according to your will, for to you is the glory, Father, Son with the Holy Spirit, in the Holy Church, now and ever, for all ages of the ages.

*People:* Amen.

*He now lays hands upon the Newly Baptized and continues:*

*Priest:* Send forth now upon this your child:  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding.

*People:* Amen.

*Priest:* The Spirit of right judgment and courage.

*People:* Amen.

*Priest:* The Spirit of knowledge and reverence.

*People:* Amen.

*Priest:* Fill *him/her* with the Spirit of wonder and awe in Your presence and, in Your mercy, sign *him/her* with the sign of the cross of Christ to everlasting life. Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, for all ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*Then the Priest lays hands upon the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying to each one*

*N.*, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* Amen.

*The Priest gives a lighted candle to the Newly Baptized saying:*

Receive this burning light as a sign of your Illumination in Baptism and Chrismation. Keep yourself burning with desire for heavenly things which will endure, so when the Bridegroom comes to the wedding feast you may meet Him with your lamp burning brightly and enter with Him and all the saints into the heavenly courts where you shall enjoy His blessedness and life everlasting.

*People:* Amen.



*Choir:* Strengthen, O Lord what you have wrought in us, \*  
from your holy temple in Jerusalem.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, \*

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever,  
for all ages of ages. Amen.

Strengthen, O Lord what you have wrought in us, \*  
from your holy temple in Jerusalem.

*Priest:* Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*People:* We receive you into the Orthodox Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim His resurrection, and share with us in His eternal priesthood.

*Priest:* Almighty and ever living God, let Your fatherly hand ever be over *these* Your *servants*; let Your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of Your Word, that *they* may serve You in this life, and dwell with You in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* Amen.

### **The Kiss of Peace**

*The Peace is then exchanged in the form of a triple embrace.*

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

*The service then continues with the Offertory of the Liturgy, at which the Bishop, when present, should be the principal celebrant.*

### **THE RENUNCIATION OF HERESY**

*At some time previous to the Baptism or reception into the Catechumenate, the candidate is to profess his renunciation of previously held heresies, as follows:*

*The candidate is asked, in the presence of the Orthodox community, the following questions and gives the appointed responses.*

*Priest:* Are you ready to renounce the errors and false teachings of your previous Confession?

*Candidate:* I am, with God's help.

*Priest:* Do you desire to enter into and abide in the communion of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Faith?

*Candidate:* I do so desire.

*Here the Priest signs the candidate with the sign of the Cross;*

In the Name ✠ of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*Then, laying his hand upon him, the Priest says the following prayer:*

In your Name, O Lord God of truth, and in the Name of your only-begotten Son, and of your Holy Spirit, look upon this your servant **N.**, whom you have graciously enabled to turn to your holy Orthodox Church, and to take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

Remove far from *him* his former errors, and fill *him* with the true faith and hope and love in You. Enable *him* to walk in all your commandments, and to fulfill all such things as are pleasing to You; for if a man do these things, he shall find life in them. Inscribe *him* in Your Book of Life, and unite *him* to the flock of Your inheritance. May Your holy Name be glorified in *him*, together with the Name of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your life-creating Spirit.

Let Your eyes ever look upon *him* with mercy, and let Your ears ever receive the voice of *his* supplications. Make *him* to rejoice in all the works of *his* life, that *he* may confess You, worshipping You and glorifying Your great and holy Name, and ever magnify You all the days of his life. Amen.

Wherefore, renounce now, with all your heart and mind, the errors and false teachings and mistaken judgments you have held, and confess the Orthodox Catholic Faith.

*The Candidate may be asked specific questions as to those heresies and false doctrines peculiar to the confession from which he comes. In the end he is asked:*

*Priest:* Do you renounce and set aside all ancient and modern heresies and false teachings which are contrary to the teachings of Christ's holy Orthodox Catholic Church?

*Candidate:* I do renounce them.

*Priest:* Do you desire to be joined to The Orthodox Church: The One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church?

*Candidate:* I desire it with all my heart; and I believe in one God who is glorified and adored in the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and I worship him as my King and my God.



I accept and confess the apostolic and church canons as established at the seven holy Ecumenical Councils, and the other traditions of the holy Orthodox Catholic Church, with its rules and ordinances; and I accept and understand Holy Scripture as interpreted and held by our Mother, the holy Orthodox Church.

I believe and confess that there are seven Sacraments of the New Covenant: Baptism, Chrismation, the Holy Eucharist, Confession, the Priesthood, Marriage, and Holy Anointing; and that these are instituted by Christ and His Church, to the end that, by their working and reception, we may receive blessings from on high.

I believe and confess that in the Divine Liturgy of the Eucharist, under the mystical forms of bread and wine, the faithful partake of the true and real Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

I believe and confess that it is proper to reverence and invoke the Saints who reign on high with Christ, as taught by the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church; and that their prayers and intercessions avail with the Almighty God for our salvation. Likewise, that it is pleasing in the sight of God to reverence the relics of His Saints which have been glorified through incorruption as precious memorials of their godliness.

I acknowledge that the images and icons of our Saviour Christ, of the ever-virgin Mother of God, and of the other Saints, are worthy to be possessed and honored, not in the manner of idols, but that in their contemplation we may be moved to devotion and emulation of the deeds of those holy ones represented in these images, who themselves follow Christ.

I confess that the prayers of the faithful offered up to God for the salvation of those who have departed this life in the faith, are favorably received through the mercy of God.

I believe and confess that power has been given by our Saviour Jesus Christ to His Holy Orthodox Catholic Church to bind and loose; and that whatsoever by that power is bound or loosed on earth will be bound or loosed in heaven.

I believe and confess that the Foundation, Head, great High Priest and Shepherd of the Orthodox Church is our Lord Jesus Christ; and that Bishops, Priests and Deacons are appointed by Him to rule and serve His Church; and that the Holy Spirit is the Guide and Pilot of the Church.

I confess that this Church is the true and only Bride of Christ, and that in her is found true salvation.

I promise true obedience to the holy Church: to the Bishops who are her true Pastors, and the Priests appointed by them until the end of my earthly life.

All this I confess and promise with a sincere heart.

*The Priest, placing the end of his stole into the candidate's right hand, says the following:*

Enter into the holy Orthodox Church, casting away all the errors and false teaching you have previously held, and give honor to the Lord God, the Father Almighty, His only-begotten Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy and Life-creating Spirit; to whom, one true and living God and Holy Trinity, be all honor and glory, and ever and for all ages of ages.

*Candidate:* Amen.

*For a candidate who is to be baptized, the service ends here, or may be followed by the rite of entrance into the Catechumenate. But if a person already baptized is to be received through profession of faith and chrismation, the Priest continues with the following prayers:*

O LORD GOD Almighty, who alone are holy and glory in Your Saints; because of Your great and immeasurable love toward mankind, You do ever offer to sinners all manner of repentance, and show to them that have wandered from the truth, the right path to the knowledge of You, the only true God, glorified and adored in the Holy Trinity, to the end that not one should perish, but that all may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. We give You thanks, we glorify and magnify You, for that You have shed into the heart of this Your rational creature **N.**, the light and knowledge of Your truth, and have graciously led *him* to Your Holy Orthodox Catholic Church.

Illumine *his* heart, we beseech You, O Lord, with the perfect light of the grace of Your Holy Spirit, and enlighten *his* mind with the truth of Your Holy Gospel. Grant that *he* may honestly, irrevocably and sincerely unite *himself* to Your Holy Catholic Church and truly accept and confess the holy Orthodox Faith. Number *him* with Your chosen flock, and join *him* to the Body of Your Holy Church. Make *him* a vessel of honor and the temple of Your Holy Spirit; that, being ever nourished and guided by Your Spirit, *he* may faithfully observe Your saving Commandments; and doing Your gracious, acceptable and perfect will, may be counted worthy to receive Your heavenly good gifts, with all those who are pleasing in Your sight. For You are the God of mercy and compassion and the lover of mankind, who wills that all men should be saved. Unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God, for all ages of ages.

*Candidate:* Amen.

*The Priest holds forth the Cross and the Book of the Gospels, before which the candidate **stands** and makes his final profession of faith:*

This True Faith of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church I now freely confess and sincerely hold, and I will, with God's help, firmly maintain and confess it whole and entire until my last breath; and I will teach it and proclaim it, insofar as I am able, and will strive to fulfill its obligations with a cheerful and joyful heart, enduring in purity and godliness. In confirmation of this, my true and sincere profession of faith, I now kiss the Word and Cross of my Saviour. Amen.

*He kisses the Cross and the Holy Gospels. The Priest, setting these aside, says the Absolution over the candidate kneeling before him:*

Our Lord and God Jesus Christ committed to his Apostles the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and bestowed upon them full power through his grace both to bind and to loose a man from his sins upon earth. May he, through his unspeakable mercy, pardon and absolve you. And I, his unworthy priest, by his almighty power given to me, forgive you and absolve you **N.** of all your sins. I join you unto the fellowship of the faithful and to the Body of Christ's Church, and I admit you to the divine Sacraments of the Church: In the Name ✠ of the Father, and ✠ of the Son, and ✠ of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rise, my brother (sister), and as a faithful servant of Christ, pray to him with us, that he will grant to you, through the anointing of holy Chrism, the grace of the Holy Spirit.

*And the service proceeds with the rite of Chrismation as set forth in the Rite of Baptism, and the reception of Holy Communion.*

### **The Chrismation**

*The Priest may direct a psalm or hymn to be sung or the following:*

#### **The Litany for the Newly Baptized**

*Priest:* Let us pray for the servant of God, N. whom the Church has confidently chosen. May they successfully complete their journey of life and find Christ in His Holy Mysteries.

*Deacon:* That *they* may ponder the word of God in *their* hearts, and savor its meaning more fully day by day, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That *they* may learn to know Christ who came to save what was lost, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That *they* may humbly confess themselves to be sinners, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That *they* may sincerely reject everything in *their* lives, that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That the Holy Spirit, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid may help *them* to overcome *their* weaknesses through His power, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That, the same Holy Spirit may teach *them* to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That *their* families also may put their hope in Christ and find peace and holiness in Him, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That each of us who prepare for the Holy Mysteries may seek a change of heart, give ourselves over to prayer and fasting, and persevere in good works, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That throughout the whole world whoever is weak may be strengthened; whoever is broken, restored; whoever is lost, found; and whoever is found, redeemed, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That, like the woman of Samaria, we may review our lives before Christ and acknowledge our sins, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That we may be freed from the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk; and that the Lord may give us, instead, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love granting us the grace to see our own transgressions and not to judge each other, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That while awaiting the gift of Holy Spirit, *they* may give thanks with all their hearts for the living water that brings eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That by accepting the Son of God as our teacher, we may become true worshipers of the Father in spirit and in truth, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That we may share with our friends and neighbors the wonder of our own meeting with Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That those whose lives are empty for want of the word of God may come to the Gospel of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Deacon:* That all of us may learn from Christ to do the Father's will in love, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*People:* And with your spirit.

*Priest:* Let us pray.

Almighty and all-powerful God, you sent your only begotten Son to be our savior. Grant that the Newly Baptized who, like the woman of Samaria thirst for living water, may turn to the Lord as *they* have heard his word and acknowledge the sins and weaknesses which weigh *them* down. Protect *them* from vain reliance on self and defend *them*, from the power of Satan. Free *them* from the spirit of deceit, so that, admitting the wrong *they* have done, *they* may attain purity of heart and advance on the way to salvation. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for all ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.



*The Newly Baptized, now dressed in white and/or wearing an alb, come and stand before the priest accompanied by Sponsors. If it was not done earlier, the Baptismal garment is put on the Newly Baptized. The priest says:*

**N.**, you have put on the Lord Jesus Christ. You have become a new creation being clothed in Christ Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. You have put on this baptismal garment. Bring it unstained to the judgment seat of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life.

*People:* Amen.

*The Priest prays over them saying:*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You that by water and the Holy Spirit You have bestowed upon *these* Your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love You, and the gift of joy and wonder in all Your works.

*People:* Amen.

*He now lays hands upon the Newly Baptized and continues:*

*Priest:* Send forth now upon this your child:  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding.

*People:* Amen.

*Priest:* The Spirit of right judgment and courage.

*People:* Amen.

*Priest:* The Spirit of knowledge and reverence.

*People:* Amen.

*Priest:* Fill *him/her* with the Spirit of wonder and awe in your presence and, in Your mercy, sign *him/her* with the sign of the cross of Christ to everlasting life. Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, for all ages of ages.

*People:* Amen.

*Then the Priest lays hands upon the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism and saying to each one*

*N.*, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*People:* Amen.

*The Priest gives a lighted candle to the Newly Chrismated saying:*

Receive this burning light as a sign of your Illumination in Baptism and Chrismation.

Keep yourself burning with desire for heavenly things which will endure, so when the Bridegroom comes to the wedding feast you may meet him with your lamp burning brightly and enter with him and all the saints into the heavenly courts where you shall enjoy His blessedness and life everlasting.

*People:* Amen.



*Choir:* Strengthen, O Lord what you have wrought in us, \*  
from your holy temple in Jerusalem.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever,  
for all ages of ages. Amen.

Strengthen, O Lord what you have wrought in us, \*  
from your holy temple in Jerusalem.

*Priest:* Let us welcome the Newly Chrismated.

*People:* We receive you into the Orthodox Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim His resurrection, and share with us in His eternal priesthood.

*Priest:* Almighty and ever living God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:* Amen.

### The Kiss of Peace

*The Peace is then exchanged in the form of a triple embrace.*

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

*The service then continues with the Offertory of the Liturgy, at which the Bishop, when present, should be the principal celebrant. Except on Principal Feasts, the Proper Preface of Baptism may be used.*