

PRAYERS FOR A WOMAN ON THE FORTIETH DAY AFTER CHILDBIRTH

*The mother stands in the Narthex of the Church holding the child. The **Priest**, vested with Epitrachelion, goes to the Narthex and, standing before mother and child, begins:*

Deacon: Bless, Master.

Priest: + Blessed is our God always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen.

Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere and fulfill all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!

O Master, pardon our transgressions!

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen.

Troparion

People: *(sing the Dismissal Troparion of the Day, the Temple, or the Saint)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers of all the Saints and the Theotokos, grant us Your peace, O Lord, and have mercy on us, for You only are compassionate.

Prayer of Purification

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Priest makes the Sign of the Cross over them, and touching the infant's head, he says:

Priest: O Lord God Almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who by Your word have created all things, both reason-endowed men and animals, and have brought all things from nothingness into being, we pray and implore You: having saved this Your servant, _____, by Your will, purify her from all sin and from every defilement, as she now draws near to Your Holy Church. Count her worthy to partake, without condemnation, of Your Holy Mysteries.

For You are a good God, and You love mankind, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

*If the child is living, the **Priest** continues with the following prayers.*

Priest: And bless the child who has been born of her. Increase him (*her*); sanctify him (*her*); enlighten him (*her*); render him (*her*) chaste, and endow him (*her*) with good understanding. For You have brought him (*her*) into being, and have shown him (*her*) the physical light, and have appointed him (*her*) to be counted worthy in due time of the spiritual light, and that he (*she*) may be numbered among Your holy flock, through Your Only-begotten Son with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

The Prayer For The Mother

Priest: O Lord our God, Who came for the salvation of the human race, come also upon Your servant, _____, and grant to her, through the prayers of Your honorable priest, entrance into the Temple of Your glory. Wash away her uncleanness, and the stains of her soul, in the fulfilling of the forty days. Make her worthy of the communion of Your precious Body and Blood.

For sanctified and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Prayers For The Child

The Priest makes the sign of the Cross on the head of the child.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, You were brought on the fortieth day as an infant into the Temple according to the Law, by Mary the unwedded Bride, who was also Your holy Mother; and You were carried in the arms of Simeon the Just. O all-powerful Master, bless also this infant which has been brought here, increasing him (*her*) in every good deed, that he (*she*) may present himself (*herself*) to You, the Creator of all men, and raise him (*her*) well-pleasing to You in all things; and drive far from him (*her*) every adverse power, through sealing with the sign of Your cross; for You do preserve infants, O Lord. And grant that having been made worthy of holy Baptism, he (*she*) may receive the portion of the elect ones of Your kingdom, and be preserved, together with us, through the grace of the holy, and consubstantial, and undivided Trinity.

For to You belong all glory, thanksgiving and worship, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O God the Father Almighty, Who by Your mighty-voiced Prophet Isaiah foretold to us the Incarnation through a Virgin of Your Only-begotten Son and our God; Who in these latter days, by Your good pleasure and the cooperation of the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of us men, and because of Your boundless compassion, graciously willed to become an infant by her; and according to the custom of Your holy Law, You allowed Yourself to be brought into Your holy Sanctuary, after the days of purification were fulfilled, being Yourself the true Lawgiver; and You condescended to be carried in the arms of the righteous Simeon, of which mystery we have recognized the prototype, revealed by the coal in the tongs, foretold by the prophet; which thing, also, we faithful, by grace do imitate. Now, O Lord, Who preserves children, bless this Infant, together with his (*her*) parents and his (*her*) sponsors; and grant that, in due season, he (*she*) may be united, through water and the Spirit of the new birth, to Your holy flock of reason-endowed sheep, which is called by the name of Your Christ.

For You dwell on high and look down upon the humble of heart, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

RECEPTION INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

The Priest, vested in stole, phelonion and cuffs, comes out of the Sanctuary and goes to the Narthex of the Church where the Sponsors and the Candidate await him, shoes removed.

If the Candidate is an heterodox Christian:

Priest: Do you desire to enter into and abide in the unity of the holy orthodox catholic Faith?

Candidate: I so desire.

The Priest breathes gently thrice in the face of the Candidate. He makes the Sign of the Cross thrice upon the Candidate's forehead and breast, and lays his right hand upon the Candidate's head.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: In Your Name, O Lord, God of truth, and in the Name of Your Only-begotten Son, and of Your holy Spirit, I lay my hand upon Your servant, _____, who has been found worthy to flee unto You, and to take refuge under the shelter of Your wings. Remove far from him (*her*) his (*her*) former delusion, and fill him (*her*) with the faith, hope and love which are in You; that he (*she*) may know that You are the only true God, with Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Your Holy Spirit. Enable him (*her*) to walk in all Your commandments, and to fulfill those things which are well-pleasing to You; for by doing these things, he (*she*) shall find life in them. Inscribe him (*her*) in Your Book of Life, and unite him (*her*) to the flock of Your inheritance. And may Your holy Name be glorified in him (*her*), together with that of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your life-creating Spirit. Let Your eyes ever regard him (*her*) with mercy, and let Your ears attend to the voice of his (*her*) supplication. Make him (*her*) rejoice in the works of his (*her*) hands, and in all his (*her*) generation; that he (*she*) may render praises unto You, may sing, worship and glorify Your great and exalted Name always, all the days of his (*her*) life.

For all the Powers of Heaven sing praises unto You, and Yours is the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

If the Candidate is an heterodox Christian, the service concludes:

Priest: O Lord our God, we implore You and beseech You, that the light of Your countenance may shine upon Your servant, _____, and that the Cross of Your only-begotten Son may be engraved in his (*her*) heart and in his (*her*) thoughts; that he (*she*) may flee from the vanity of the world and from the evil snare of the enemy and may follow after Your commandments. And grant, O Lord, that Your holy Name may never be rejected by him (*her*) and that he (*she*) may be united, in due time, to Your holy Church, and that the awesome mysteries of Your Christ may be administered to him (*her*); that having lived according to Your commandments and having preserved without flaw the seal of Your Holy Spirit, he (*she*) may receive the joy of the elect in Your kingdom:

through the grace and love towards 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 unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The First Exorcism

Priest: The Lord bans you, O Devil: He Who came into the world, and dwelled among men, that He might overthrow your tyranny and deliver men. Upon the Tree, He also triumphed over the adverse powers, when the sun was darkened, and the earth shook, and the graves were opened, and the bodies of the Saints arose. By death He annihilated Death, and

overthrew him who exercised the dominion of Death, that is you, the Devil. I charge you by God, Who revealed the Tree of Life, and arrayed in ranks the Cherubim and the flaming sword which turns all ways to guard it: be banned. For I charge you by Him who walked upon the surface of the sea as if it were dry land, and banned the tempests of the winds; Whose glance dries up the deep, and Whose command makes the mountains melt away. Now, through us, He bans you. Fear, begone and depart from this created one, and do not return, nor hide yourself in him (*her*), nor seek to meet him (*her*), nor to influence him (*her*), either by night or by day, either in the morning or at noonday; but depart to your own infernal abyss until the great Day of Judgment which is ordained. Fear God Who sits upon the Cherubim and looks upon the deeps; before Whom tremble Angels and Archangels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Authorities, Powers, the many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim; before Whom, likewise, heaven and earth do shake, the seas and all that they contain. Leave, and depart from this sealed, newly-enlisted warrior of Christ our God. For I charge you by Him Who rides upon the wings of the wind, and makes His Angels spirits, and His ministers a flaming fire: leave, and depart from this created one, with all your powers and your angels.

For glorified is the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Second Exorcism

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: God, holy, awesome and glorious, Who is unsearchable and inscrutable in all His works and might, has foreordained for you the penalty of eternal punishment, O Devil. The same God, through us, His unworthy

servant, commands you, with all your hosts, to depart from him (*her*) who has been newly sealed in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our true God. Therefore I charge you, most crafty, impure, vile, loathsome and alien spirit, by the power of Jesus Christ, Who has all power, both in heaven and on earth, Who said to the deaf and dumb demon, “Come out of the man, and do not enter a second time into him:” Depart! Acknowledge the vanity of your might, which does not even have power over swine. Remember Him Who, at your request, commanded you to enter into the herd of swine. Fear God, by Whose decree the earth is established upon the waters; Who has made the heavens, and has set the mountains with a line and the valleys with a measure; and has fixed bounds to the sands of the sea, and a firm path upon the stormy waters; Who touches the mountains and they smoke; Who clothes Himself with light as with a garment; Who spreads out the heavens like a curtain; Who covers His exceedingly high places with the waters; Who has made the earth so sure upon its foundations, that it shall never be moved; Who gathers the water of the sea and pours it out upon the face of the whole earth: Leave, and depart from him (*her*) who has made himself (*herself*) ready for Holy Illumination. I charge you by the redeeming Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His precious Body and Blood, and by His awesome Second Coming; for He shall come quickly to judge the whole earth; and He shall chastise you and all your host with burning Gehenna, committing you to outer darkness, where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

For of Christ our God is the dominion, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Third Exorcism

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord of Sabaoth, the God of Israel, Who heals every malady and every infirmity: Look upon Your servant; prove him (*her*) and search him (*her*) and root out of him (*her*) every operation of the devil. Rebuke the unclean spirits and expel them, and purify the works of Your hands; and exerting Your great power, speedily crush down Satan under his (*her*) feet; and give him (*her*) victory over the same, and over his unclean spirits.

That, having obtained mercy from You, he (*she*) may be made worthy to partake of Your heavenly Mysteries; and may send up glory to You, the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

A Fourth Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord and Master, You created man in Your own likeness, and gave him the power of eternal life. You do not despise those who have fallen away through sin, but provide salvation for the world through the incarnation of Your Christ. Likewise, O Lord, deliver this Your created one from the bondage of the enemy, receive him (*her*) into Your heavenly kingdom. Open the eyes of his (*her*) understanding, that the illumination of Your Gospel may shine brightly in him (*her*). Assign to his (*her*) life an Angel of light who shall deliver him (*her*) from every snare of the adversary, from encounter with evil, from the demon of the noonday, and from evil thoughts.

The Priest then breathes gently in the form of a cross over the mouth, brow and breast of the Candidate, saying three times:

Expel from him (*her*) every evil and unclean spirit which hides and makes its lair in his (*her*) heart, (3x)

...the spirit of deceit, the spirit of evil, the spirit of idolatry and of every covetousness; the spirit of falsehood and of every uncleanness which operates through the prompting of the devil. And make him (*her*) a reason-endowed sheep in the holy flock of Your Christ, an honorable member of Your Church, a consecrated vessel, a child of the light and an heir of Your kingdom, that having lived in accordance with Your commandments, and preserved inviolate the seal, and kept his (*her*) garment undefiled, he (*she*) may receive 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 unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Candidate, with shoes removed, (and the Sponsors) turn around and face the West, with their backs to the Priest. The Priest then asks the following question three times:

Priest: Do you renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his angels, and all his service and all his pride? (3x)

And each time the Candidate (or Sponsor), answers:

Candidate: I do renounce him!

Priest: Have you renounced Satan? (3x)

And the Candidate (or Sponsor), responds each time:

Candidate: I have renounced him!

Priest: Blow and spit upon him!

The Candidate (and the Sponsors) now turn back to the East, and they stand facing the Priest.

The Priest asks three times:

Do you unite yourself to Christ? (3x)

And each time the Candidate (or Sponsor) answers:

Candidate: I do unite myself to Christ.

Priest: Have you united yourself to Christ?

Candidate: I have united myself to Christ.

Priest: Do you believe in Him?

Candidate: I believe in Him as King and God.

The Nicene Creed

All: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world¹ to come. Amen.

After the Creed, the Priest makes the following inquiry three times:

Priest: Have you united yourself to Christ? (3x)

The Candidate (or Sponsor) responds each time:

Candidate: I have united myself to Christ.

Priest: Bow down before Him.

Candidate: (*bowing*) I bow down before the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

Priest: Blessed is God, Who desires that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, call Your servant, _____, to Your holy Illumination, and grant to him (*her*) that great grace of Your holy Baptism. Put off from him (*her*) the old man, and renew him (*her*) unto eternal life; and fill him (*her*) with the power of Your Holy Spirit, in the unity of Your Christ; that he (*she*) may be no more a child of the body, but a child of Your kingdom.

Through the good will and grace of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

¹ Literally "age".

RECEPTION OF NON-BAPTIZED CONVERTS

Psalm 33 (34)

People: I will bless the Lord at all times,
His praise shall be continually in my mouth.

My soul will be praised by the Lord;
let the meek hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me
and let us exalt His name together.

I sought the Lord and He answered me,
and He delivered me out of all my troubles.

Come to Him and be radiant,
and your faces will not be ashamed.

This poor man called and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord will camp round those who fear Him
and will deliver them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who hopes in Him.

O fear the Lord, all you His saints,
because those who fear Him lack nothing.

The rich do become poor and hungry,
but those who seek the Lord
will not be in want of anything good.

Come, children, listen to me!
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is a person who wants life
and loves to see good days?

Stop your tongue from evil
and your lips from talking deceit.

Turn away from evil and do good,
seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous
and His ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against evildoers
to destroy their memory from the earth.

The righteous call and the Lord answers them
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted
and He will save the humble in spirit.

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

The Lord guards all their bones,
not one of them will be broken.

The death of sinners is evil,
and those who hate a righteous man will sin.

The Lord will deliver the souls of His servants,
and none will sin who hope in Him.

The Priest² inquires at the door of the Church:

Priest: Who are you?

Candidate: I am one who desires to know the true God, and seeks salvation.

² It is the responsibility of the Bishop to receive converts into the Orthodox Church. This responsibility may, however, be delegated to the Priest by the Bishop.

Priest: Why are you coming to the Holy Church?

Candidate: That I may learn from her the true faith, and unite myself to her.

Priest: What do you hope to gain by receiving the true faith?

Candidate: Life eternal and blessed.

The Candidate is then asked to renounce his (her) errors and confess his (her) belief.

If the Candidate is a Jew:

Candidate: I renounce the blasphemies of the Jews against Jesus Christ our Savior, His most holy Mother and His Saints. I renounce circumcision. I renounce the observance of Saturday, and all Jewish festivals and ceremonies. I renounce the rabbinical interpretation of the Scriptures contained in the Talmud and ancient and modern writings. I renounce the doctrine that the Messiah is not yet come, and the vain expectation of His coming.

If the Candidate is a Moslem:

Candidate: I renounce the Moslem faith, and its sophistries. I renounce Mohammed, as being a false prophet. I renounce the Koran and all false legends, laws and traditions contained in it. I renounce the pilgrimage to Mecca for worship, as being necessary for the soul. I renounce polygamy in this life, and the teaching as to sensual pleasures in Paradise. I renounce the blasphemies which Moslems utter concerning Christ our Savior, His most holy Mother, and Christians.

If the Candidate is a Pagan:

Candidate: I renounce all superstitions, false religions, and secret societies. I renounce the worship of created things. I renounce the worship of false gods. I renounce the offering and eating of sacrifices to false gods. I renounce all false priests, magicians, fortune-tellers, and astrologers.

The Convert then makes an oath of allegiance.

Convert: I, _____, who today have come to enter the Orthodox Christian faith from _____, take my oath before the omniscient God, that I renounce the false doctrines, heresies, and lies of _____, and enter the saving faith of Christ, not because of any compulsion, fear, or oppression, and not for the sake of gain, neither by reason of any hidden guilt on my part, but solely for the salvation of my soul. Being convinced of the very truth of this faith, and drawn by the love of my heart unto Christ the Savior, I desire to become a Christian, and that holy Baptism may be granted to me. And if I now assert these things through hypocrisy, and do not come to Christ God through the desire of my heart, and if I shall hereafter dare to renounce the Orthodox Christian faith, and return to _____, may I suffer the wrath of God and everlasting damnation.

And after this, he (she) receives Baptism, Chrismation, and Holy Communion.

THE ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Priest vests in Epitrachelion, Phelonion, and cuffs.

The Priest leads the Candidate and Sponsors to the place where Baptism is customarily administered. Lighted candles are given to the Candidate and Sponsors. A censuring is made around the baptismal font. The Priest returns to the Sanctuary, and the Holy Doors are opened.

The Deacon leaves the Sanctuary, passing the High Place, through the North door. He goes before the icon of Christ, and bowing 3 times, prays silently:

Deacon: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. (3x)

Then he raises his Orarion and exclaims aloud:

Bless, Master.

The Priest kisses the Holy Gospel, lifts it up with both hands, and lowering it, signs the Altar Table crosswise, saying:

Priest: + Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest exits the Sanctuary and goes to the baptismal font.

The Great Litany

The Deacon, standing before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: ³For [his Beatitude] Metropolitan _____; for [his Grace] our Bishop _____; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President⁴ and all civil authorities of this country, and for those serving in its Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this water, that it may be sanctified by the power, effectual operation, and descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That there may be sent down into it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That there may descend upon these waters the cleansing operation of the super-substantial Trinity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

³ We pray for the Bishop of the temple in which we are praying. When not in a temple, we pray for the Bishop of the diocese in which we are located. If outside the territory of any Orthodox Church or mission, only then do we pray for the Bishop of the celebrating Priest.

⁴ We pray for the Chief of State and the civil authorities of the place in which we are praying.

Deacon: That He will illumine us with the light of understanding and of piety, by the descent of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this water may serve to the averting of every evil purpose of enemies visible and invisible, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) who is baptized therein may be made worthy of the incorruptible kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For him (*her*) who is now come to holy Baptism, and for his (*her*) salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) may prove himself (*herself*) a child of the light, and an heir of eternal good things, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) may be a member and partaker of the death and resurrection of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) may preserve his (*her*) baptismal garment and the earnest of the Spirit pure and undefiled unto the Day of Christ our God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That this water may be to him (*her*) a washing of regeneration, unto the remission of sins, and a garment of incorruption, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord our God will heed the entreaty of us sinners, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will deliver him (*her*) and us from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand to the right of the Priest:

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O compassionate and merciful God, Who tries the heart and the reins, and Who alone knows the secret thoughts of all (for no deeds are hidden before You, but all things are laid bare and manifest before Your eyes); Who knows all things concerning me, Who disregards man's sins unto repentance, do not look upon me with loathing, nor turn Your face from me; do not consider my iniquities at this present hour. Wash away the vileness of my body, and the pollution of my soul. Sanctify me wholly by Your all-perfect, invisible might, and by Your spiritual right hand, lest, while I proclaim liberty to others, and administer this rite with perfect faith in Your ineffable love toward mankind, I myself may become the base slave of sin. Yes, O Master, Who alone are good and full of love toward mankind, do not let your humble servant be led astray; but send down upon me power from on high, and strengthen me in the administration of Your impending Mystery, which is both great

and most heavenly. Create the image of Your Christ in him (*her*), who now desires to be born again through my unworthy ministry. Build him (*her*) up upon the foundation of Your Apostles and Prophets, that he (*she*) may not be overthrown; but implant him (*her*) firmly as a plant of truth, in Your holy catholic and apostolic Church, that he (*she*) may not be plucked out.

That, as he (*she*) increases in godliness, through him (*her*) may be glorified Your all-holy Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Blessing of the Baptismal Water

Priest: ⁵You are great, O Lord, and Your works are marvelous, and there is no word which suffices to sing of Your wonders. (3x)

For by Your will You have brought all things from non-existence into being; by Your majesty You uphold all creation, and by Your providence You govern the world. When You had framed the universe out of the elements, You crowned the circle of the year with the four seasons. All the reason-endowed powers tremble before You. The Sun sings Your praises, and the Moon glorifies You; the Stars, also, stand before Your presence. The Light obeys You. The depths shudder with awe before You; the waters do Your bidding. You have spread out the heavens like a curtain. You have established the earth upon the waters. With sand You have encompassed the sea. You have given the air for breathing. The angelic powers serve You. The Archangelic hosts adore You. The many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, as they stand and fly, veil their faces with awe before Your unapproachable glory. For You, the God which cannot be circumscribed, Who are from everlasting and ineffable, came down upon the earth, taking on the form

⁵ In earlier times, the Priest would bless the water with the three candles.

of a servant, and being made in the likeness of men. For You could not endure, O Master, because of Your tender mercy, to behold the children of men tormented by the devil; but You came and saved us. We confess Your grace; we proclaim Your mercy; we do not conceal Your gracious deeds. You have freed the generations of our race; by Your birth You have sanctified a Virgin's womb. All creation sings praises unto You, Who revealed Yourself; for You, our God, manifested Yourself upon the earth, and dwelt among men. You sanctified, also, the streams of Jordan, in that You sent down from heaven Your Holy Spirit, and crushed the heads of the serpents which lurked there.

The Priest breathes upon the water 3x and says:

O King Who loves mankind, come now and sanctify this water, by the descent of Your Holy Spirit. (3x)

And impart to it the grace of redemption, the blessing of Jordan. Make it the fountain of incorruption, the gift of sanctification, the remission of sins, the remedy of infirmities; the final destruction of demons, unassailable by hostile powers, filled with angelic might. Let those who would ensnare Your creature flee far from it. For we have called upon Your Name, O Lord, and it is wonderful, and glorious, and awesome even to adversaries.

The Priest then blesses the water by dipping the fingers of his right hand into it and tracing the Sign of the Cross three times.

Let all adverse powers be crushed beneath the sign of the image of Your Cross. (3x)

We implore You, O God, that every obscure phantom of the air may withdraw itself from us; and that no demon of darkness may conceal himself in this water; and that no evil spirit which instills darkening of intentions and rebelliousness of thought may descend into it with him (*her*) who is about to be baptized.

But show this water, O Master of all, to be the water of redemption, the water of sanctification, the purification of flesh and spirit, the loosing of bonds, the remission of sins, the illumination of the soul, the washing of regeneration, the renewal of the Spirit, the gift of adoption to sonship, the garment of incorruption, the fountain of life. For You have said, O Lord: “Wash and be clean; put away evil things from your souls.” You have bestowed upon us from on high a new birth through water and the Spirit. Therefore, O Lord, manifest Yourself in this water, and grant that he (*she*) who is baptized therein may be transformed; that he (*she*) may put away from himself (*herself*) the old man, which is corrupt through the lusts of the flesh, and that he (*she*) may, in like manner, be a partaker of Your Resurrection; and having preserved the gift of Your Holy Spirit, and increased the measure of grace committed to him (*her*), he (*she*) may receive the prize of his (*her*) high calling, and be numbered with the firstborn whose names are written in heaven, in You, our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

For to You belong glory, dominion, honor, and worship, together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

The Blessing of the Oil of the Catechumens

The Deacon holds the vessel containing the oil and the Priest breathes upon the vessel three times.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord and Master, the God of our fathers, You sent to them that were in the ark of Noah, Your dove, bearing in its beak a twig of olive, the token of reconciliation and of salvation from the flood, the foreshadowing of the mystery of grace, and provided the fruit of the olive for the fulfilling of Your Holy Mysteries. You thereby fill them that were under the Law with Your Holy Spirit, and perfect them that are under grace.

The Priest makes the Sign of the Cross over it three times with his right hand.

+ Bless also this holy oil with the power, operation and indwelling of Your Holy Spirit, that it may be an anointing unto incorruption, an armor of righteousness, to the renewing of soul and body, to the averting of every assault of the devil, to deliverance from all evil of those who shall be anointed with it in faith, or who are partakers thereof;

unto Your glory and the glory of Your Only-begotten Son, and of Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us attend!

The Priest makes the Sign of the Cross three times in the water with the oil. Each time he chants:

Priest: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: (each time) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Priest: Blessed is God, Who illumines and sanctifies every man that comes into the world, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Anointing

*The **Priest** proceeds to anoint the one to be baptized. He dips his two fingers (or the brush) into the blessed oil and traces the Sign of the Cross on the candidate as follows:*

----- On the forehead -----

Priest: The servant of God, _____, is anointed with the oil of gladness; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

----- On the breast and shoulders -----

Unto the healing of soul and body.

----- On the ears -----

Unto the hearing of the faith.

----- On the hands -----

Your hands have made and fashioned me.

----- On the feet -----

That he (*she*) may walk in the way of Your commandments.

The Baptism

*After the anointing, the **Priest** takes the Candidate for baptism. Keeping the Candidate facing toward the East, the Priest immerses him (her) in the baptismal water three times, saying:*

The servant of God, _____, is baptized, in the name of the Father, Amen. (*Immerse*); and of the Son, Amen. (*Immerse*); and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. (*Immerse*).

... now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Psalm 31 (32) (Sung thrice).

All: Blessed are they whose wrongdoings are forgiven
and whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not count or consider
and in whose mouth there is no deceit.

Because I kept silent my bones grew old
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
I was reduced to misery while a thorn was stuck in me.

I acknowledged my sin to You,
and I did not hide my lawlessness. I said:
“I will confess my sin to the Lord against myself.”
And You forgave the ungodliness of my heart.

For this everyone who is holy will pray to You
at a suitable time.

Then in a flood of many waters
they will not come near him.

You are my refuge from the trouble surrounding me;
my Joy, deliver me from those who encircle me.

I will teach you and instruct you
in this way you should go,
I will fix My eyes upon you.

Do not become like a horse and a mule
which have no understanding,
whose jaws you must hold with muzzle and bridle
or they will not come near you.

Many are the scourges of the sinner,
but mercy surrounds those who hope in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous,
and shout for joy, all who are honest⁶ in heart.

The Priest then takes the white baptismal garment, and placing it upon the newly baptized, says:

Priest: The servant of God, _____, is clothed in the robe of righteousness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

As the newly baptized is being clothed in the baptismal garment, the following Troparion is sung. The Baptismal Cross is placed upon the newly baptized.

Troparion

Tone 8

Grant to me the robe of light,
O Most Merciful Christ our God,
Who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment.

⁶ Lit. "straight" (Ps. 26:11; 110:1).

THE RECEPTION OF BAPTIZED HETERODOX CHRISTIANS

*If the Convert was previously baptized, the **Bishop** (or Priest⁷) shall question him (her) and say:*

Priest: Will You renounce the errors and false doctrines of the _____
Confession?

Candidate: I will.

Priest: Do you desire to enter into and remain in the holy Orthodox Catholic Church of Christ?

Candidate: I desire it with all my heart.

*The **Bishop** (or Priest) signs the Candidate with the Sign of the Cross:*

Priest: + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*The **Bishop** (or Priest) lays his hand on the bowed head of the Candidate.*

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: In Your Name, O Lord God of truth, and in the Name of Your Only-begotten Son, and of Your Holy Spirit, look upon Your servant, _____, whom You have graciously enabled to come to Your Holy Orthodox Church, and to take refuge under the shadow of her wings. Remove far from him (*her*) his (*her*) former errors, and fill him (*her*) with Your true faith, hope, and love. Enable him (*her*) to walk in all Your commandments, and to fulfill those things which are well-pleasing to You; for if a man do these things, he shall also find life in them. Inscribe him (*her*) in Your Book of Life, and unite him (*her*) to the flock of Your inheritance. And may Your holy Name be glorified in him (*her*), together with that of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your life-creating Spirit. May You always look upon him (*her*)

⁷ It is the responsibility of the Bishop to receive converts into the Orthodox Church. This responsibility may, however, be delegated to the Priest by the Bishop.

with mercy, and always receive the voice of his (*her*) supplication. Make him (*her*) rejoice in the work of his (*her*) hands, and in all his (*her*) generation, that he (*she*) may confess You, worshipping You and glorifying Your great and exalted Name, and magnify You always, all the days of his (*her*) life.

For all the Powers of heaven sing praises to You, and Yours is the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Therefore, renounce with all you heart, your errors, false doctrines, and mistakes of judgment, and confess the Orthodox Catholic Faith.

If the Candidate is from a Monophysite Church:

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous belief that in our Lord Jesus Christ there are not two natures, Divine and human, but one only: the human nature being swallowed up by the Divine?

Candidate: I do.

If the Candidate is from a Western Church:

Priest: Do you renounce the false doctrine that, regarding the Procession of the Holy Spirit, the declaration of our Savior, Christ Himself, “Who proceeds from the Father,” does not suffice and that the invented addition “and from the Son” is required?

Candidate: I do.

If the Candidate is from the Roman Church:

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous belief that it does not suffice to confess our Lord Jesus Christ as the head of the Universal Church; and that a man, the Bishop of Rome, can be the head of Christ’s Body, that is to say, of the whole Church?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous belief that the holy Apostles did not receive from the Lord equal spiritual power, but that the holy Apostle Peter was their Prince; and that the Bishop of Rome alone is his successor; and that the Bishops of Jerusalem, Alexandria, Antioch, and others are not, equally with the Bishop of Rome, successors of the Apostles?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous belief of those who think that the Bishop of Rome is superior to the Ecumenical Councils, and infallible in faith, notwithstanding the fact that several of the Popes have been heretics, and condemned as such by the Councils?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce all the other doctrines of the Western Confession, both old and new, which are contrary to the Word of God, and to the true Tradition of the Church, and to the decrees of the seven Ecumenical Councils?

Candidate: I do.

If the Candidate is from a Protestant Church:

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous belief that in the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist the bread and wine are not changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, and are either “touched” by Christ for a short time or are merely “emblems” of the Body and Blood of Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous belief of those who do not accept as Mysteries: Chrismation, Confession, Marriage, Unction, or the Priesthood itself, which administers the other Mysteries, and presume to administer Baptism and the Eucharist, never having received, through

the laying-on of hands by a Bishop, that Ordination which has been transmitted from one to another, even from the holy Apostles?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the erroneous belief of those who do not receive the Traditions of the Holy Church, do not venerate the Saints, and deprive the dead of spiritual aid and the living of spiritual consolation, in that they reject prayers for the dead?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the false doctrine of those who teach that salvation is an event that occurs at a particular moment in time, worked either wholly by God or wholly by man, rather than a process of synergy?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the false doctrine of those who teach that the predestination of men to their salvation, or their rejection, is not in accordance with the Divine foreknowledge of the faith and good works of the former, or of the unbelief and evil deeds of the latter; but in accordance with some arbitrary destiny, by reason of which faith and virtue are robbed of their merit, and God is held accountable for the perdition of sinners?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Have you renounced all ancient and modern heresies and false doctrines that are contrary to the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church?

Candidate: I have.

Priest: Do you desire to be united to the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church?

Candidate: I desire it with all my heart.

Priest: Do you believe in one God, glorified and worshipped in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: and do you worship Him as your King and your God?

Candidate: I believe in one God, glorified and worshipped in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and I worship Him as my King and my God.

Then the Candidate kneels, bows his (her) head and recites the Creed:

All: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

And in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world⁸ to come. Amen.

Priest: Blessed is God, Who enlightens every man that comes into the world.

⁸ Literally "age".

Do you accept the Apostolic and Ecclesiastic Canons framed and established at the Seven Holy Ecumenical and Provincial Councils, and the other Traditions and ordinances of the Orthodox Church?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you acknowledge that the Holy Scriptures must be accepted and interpreted in accordance with the belief which has been handed down by the Holy Fathers, and which the Holy Orthodox Church, our Mother, has always held and still does hold?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you believe and confess the Mysteries of the New Testament: Baptism, Chrismation, the Eucharist, Confession, the Priesthood, Marriage, and Unction, instituted by the Lord Christ and His Church, to the end that, through their operation and reception, we may obtain blessings from on high?

Candidate: I believe and confess it.

Priest: Do you believe and confess that in the Divine Liturgy, under the mystical forms of the holy bread and wine, the faithful partake of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto the remission of sins, and unto eternal life?

Candidate: I believe and confess it.

Priest: Do you believe and confess that it is proper to reverence and invoke the Saints who are with Christ, according to the interpretation of the Holy Orthodox Church; and that their prayers and intercessions before God are received unto our salvation: and that it is well-pleasing in the sight of God that we should venerate their relics, glorified through incorruption, as precious memorials of their virtue?

Candidate: I believe and confess it.

Priest: Do you confess that the icons of Christ our Savior; and of the Ever-virgin Mother of God, and of the other Saints are worthy of being possessed and honored; not unto idolatry, but that, through contemplation thereof, we may increase in piety, and emulation of the deeds of the holy persons represented by these icons?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you confess that the prayers of the faithful which are offered up to God, and more especially when accompanied by the oblation of the bloodless sacrifice, for the salvation of those who have departed this life in the faith, are favorably received, through the mercy of God?

Candidate: I do.

Priest: Do you believe and confess that power has been given by Christ our Savior to the Orthodox Catholic Church to bind and to loose: and that whatever, by virtue of that power, is bound or loosed on earth will be bound or loosed in heaven?

Candidate: I believe and confess it.

Priest: Do you believe and confess that the Foundation, Head, and Great High Priest and Chief Shepherd of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church is our Lord Jesus Christ; and that bishops, pastors and teachers are appointed by Him to rule the Church; and that the Guide and Pilot of this Church is the Holy Spirit?

Candidate: I believe and confess that this Church is the Bride of Christ, and that in this Church is true salvation, which was in the Ark of Noah at the Flood.

Priest: Do you promise true obedience, to the end of your life, in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to the Metropolitan (*or other authorities of the autocephalous church*); to the Most Holy Synod; and to the Bishop of this Diocese, as the true pastors appointed by the Holy Spirit; and to the priests ordained by them?

Candidate: I promise it, with my whole heart.

*Then the **Bishop** or Priest gives the Candidate the end of his stole in his right hand, saying:*

Priest: Enter into the Orthodox Church; and cast aside all the errors and false doctrines you have held. Honor the Lord God, the Father Almighty, and His Only-begotten Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, one true and living God, the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and undivided.

*And he leads the Convert into the Church, holding the end of the stole, and places him (her) in front of the Ambo, where, upon a table, is laid the book of the Holy Gospels, and the convert lets go of the stole. As they are entering, the **Reader** says:*

Psalm 66 (67)

Reader: May God have compassion on us and bless us,
may He manifest His presence to us
and have mercy on us:

that Your way may be known on the earth,
Your salvation among all nations.

Let the people⁹ give thanks to You, O God,
let all the people confess and praise You.

Let the nations be glad and rejoice,
because You will judge the people with justice
and You will guide the nations on the earth.

Let the people give thanks to You, O God,
let all the people confess and praise You.

The earth has given her fruit;
may God, our God, bless us.

⁹ Lit. "peoples" (vv.3-5).

May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear Him.

The Bishop (or Priest) commands the Convert to kneel down before the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Send Your Holy Spirit, and they shall be created; and renew the face of the earth. Turn again, O Lord, how long? And be entreated for Your servant. The crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough ways smoothed. O Lord my God, save Your servant, who puts his (*her*) trust in You. Be to him (*her*), O Lord, a pillar of strength against the onslaught of the enemy. Do not let the enemy prevail against him (*her*), and do not let the son of iniquity go about to offend him. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let the voice of my cry come to You.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, God Almighty, You alone are holy, resting in the Saints. Yet, because of Your great and incalculable love for mankind, You have always offered various icons of repentance, and have shown the right path to the knowledge of You, the one true God, worshipped and glorified in the Trinity, to those who have wandered from the truth, that not one of them should perish, but that all may be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. We give thanks to You, we glorify and extol You, for You have caused the light of the understanding of Your truth to shine in the heart of this Your reason-endowed creature, _____, and as if from sleep, have roused him (*her*) up from perishing in error, and counted him (*her*) worthy to seek refuge in Your Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Church. Cause to shine in his (*her*) heart, O Master, the perfect light of the grace of Your Holy Spirit for the enlightening knowledge of the truth of Your Holy Gospel. Grant him (*her*) sincerely, irrevocably, and without hypocrisy, to unite himself (*herself*) to Your Holy Church, truly accepting and confessing the Orthodox Catholic faith. Number him (*her*) with Your chosen flock. Unite him (*her*) to the body of Your Holy Church. Make him (*her*) to

be a vessel of honor, and a dwelling place of Your Holy Spirit; that, ever nourished and guided by the Holy Spirit, he (*she*) may keep Your saving commandments; and that by doing Your good and perfect will, he (*she*) may be counted worthy to receive Your heavenly good things, together with all those who are well-pleasing to You.

For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love toward mankind, and You desire that all should be saved; and unto You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Bishop (or Priest) commands the Convert to stand, saying:

Priest: Rise, and stand with fear.

Convert: This true faith of the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church, which I now voluntarily confess and truly hold, I will firmly maintain and confess, whole and unchanged, even until my last breath, with God's help. I will teach it and proclaim it, insofar as I am able. I will strive to fulfill its obligations with zeal and joy, preserving my heart in purity and virtue. In witness of this, my true and sincere profession of faith, I now kiss the Word and Cross of my Savior. Amen.

After he (she) kisses the Holy Gospels and the Cross:

Priest: Blessed is God, Who desires that all be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Bend your knees before the Lord God, Whom You have confessed, and receive remission of your sins.

*The **Convert** kneels down and bows his (her) head and the **Bishop** (or Priest) pronounces the absolution:*

O Lord our God, Who remitted the sins of Peter and the harlot through their tears and justified the Publican who acknowledged his transgressions: Accept the confession of Your servant _____, and in Your goodness overlook his (her) sins, whether voluntary or involuntary, of word or deed or thought, wherein he (she) has sinned against You: For You alone have power to remit sins, and You are a God of mercies and bounties, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rise, brother (*sister*), and as a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, and, together with us, pray to Him that He will count you worthy to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit through the anointing with the holy Chrism.

THE ORDER OF HOLY CHRISMATION

If the Candidate is a Convert:

All present make three metanias toward the East. The Holy Doors are opened.

The Deacon leaves the Sanctuary, passing the High Place, through the North door. He goes before the Holy Doors, and bowing 3 times, prays silently:

Deacon: Bless, Master.

The Priest kisses the Holy Gospel, lifts it up with both hands, and lowering it, signs the Altar Table crosswise, saying:

Priest: + Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest exits the Sanctuary.

Tone 6

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, You are everywhere and fulfill all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

The Great Litany

The Deacon, standing before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For [his Beatitude] Metropolitan _____; for [his Grace] our Bishop _____; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That through the anointing with the all-holy Chrism, divine power may be given to the servant of God, _____, who is now being united to the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church unto the conquering and trampling of all adverse snares of the devil, and of the assaults which come through the flesh and the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) may be a valiant and victorious soldier of Christ our God, by the power, effectual operation, grace, and descent of the Holy Spirit, through anointing with the all-holy Chrism, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) may be firm and strong and immovable in the Orthodox Faith, in love and in hope, through anointing with the all-holy Chrism, all the days of his (*her*) life, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That grace may be given to him (*her*), through anointing with the all-holy Chrism, so that with boldness, without fear, and unashamed, he (*she*) may confess before all men the Name of Christ our God, and that he (*she*) may always be ready, for His sake, to lovingly suffer and to die, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) may grow in all virtues, and prosper in the commandments of Christ our God, through anointing with the all-holy Chrism, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That with holy fear he (*she*) may preserve his (*her*) soul in purity and in truth, through anointing with the all-holy Chrism, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he (*she*) may mature unto the perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, by the power, effectual operation, grace, and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That with us he (*she*) may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and distress, and that we may all attain to the unity of the Faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand to the right of the Priest:

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honor and worship, to the Father, and to the

Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord

People: Lord, have mercy.

After the Candidate for Chrismation has been clothed in the white garment, the Priest prays:

Priest: Blessed are You, O Lord God Almighty, Source of all good things, Sun of Righteousness, shining on those who were in darkness the light of salvation, through the revelation of Your only-begotten Son and our God. You have given to us, unworthy though we be, blessed purification through hallowed water, and divine sanctification through life-giving Chrismation. Now, also, You have graciously regenerated Your servant that has received Illumination, by water and the Spirit, and have granted to him (*her*) remission of sins, whether voluntary or involuntary. Likewise, O Master, compassionate King of kings, grant to him (*her*) the seal of the gift of Your holy, almighty, and adorable Spirit, and participation in the holy Body and precious Blood of Your Christ. Keep him (*her*) in Your sanctification; confirm him (*her*) in the Orthodox faith; deliver him (*her*) from the evil one, and from all his workings. Preserve his (*her*) soul in purity and righteousness, through the saving fear of You; that he (*she*) may please You in every word and deed, and may be a child and heir of Your heavenly kingdom.

For You are our God, the God Who shows mercy and saves us; and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest dips his fingers (or the brush) into the Holy Chrism and anoints the Candidate, tracing the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, the eyes, the nostrils, the lips, on both ears, the breast, the hands and the feet, and saying each time:

Priest: The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The People respond each time:

People: Amen. (or Sealed.)

The Priest then leads the Candidate and Sponsors in a circular procession around the Baptismal Font (or table). Everyone sings:

All: As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.
Alleluia! (3x)

If the newly-chrismated is a convert:

Priest: O Lord our God, You have counted your servant, _____, worthy of perfection through the gift of true faith in You, and through the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit by Your holy and most heavenly anointing. O Master of all, preserve him (*her*) in the true faith, nourish him (*her*) in righteousness and truth, and adorn him (*her*) with all Your gifts.

For You are our God, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

If the Candidate has just been baptized:

The Epistle Reading

The Deacon turns to face the Reader, lifts his Orarion and says:

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the third tone:

The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

People: The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

People: The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation...

People: ...whom shall I fear?

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us attend!

*As the **Reader** chants the appointed Epistle(s), the **Deacon** takes up the censer and says to the Priest:*

Deacon: Bless, Master the incense.

Priest: + Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen.

*The **Deacon** does a Lesser Censing, beginning with the Holy Gospel and table, the Holy Doors, the Iconostasis, the Priest, and the People. He then returns and gives up the censer.*

Reader: Brethren, do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has

dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Upon the completion of the Epistle, the **Priest** blesses the Reader.*

Priest: + Peace to you who read.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the _____ tone.

*The **Reader** chants the two Alleluia verses. After each one, the people sing the Alleluia.*

Deacon: (to the Priest) Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Illumine our hearts, O Master, Lover of mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Your gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Your blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things that are well-pleasing to You,

for You are the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto You we send up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Deacon: Amen.

The Gospel

Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: At that time the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

The Priest replaces the Gospel upon the Antimension and preaches the homily.

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for [His Beatitude] Metropolitan _____, for [His Grace] our Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the (*President*) and all civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its Armed Forces.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servant of God _____, the Sponsor, and for the newly-illumined servant of God, _____, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: That he (*she*) may be kept in the faith by a pure confession, in all godliness, and the fulfilling of the commandments of Christ, all the days of his (*her*) life.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: O Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication of Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercy. Send down Your bounties upon us, and upon all Your people who await the rich mercy that comes from You,

for You are a merciful God, and You love mankind, and unto You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Exhortation by the Priest to the Sponsor after the Baptism

Priest: O pious and Christian Sponsor, _____: Through the grace and compassion of God, the Lover of Mankind, Who desires that all men be saved, today spiritual birth by water and the Spirit has been accomplished in the Temple of God. Concerning such, the Lord Christ, Himself, has given us this law of birth, saying to Nicodemus: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” And after the Resurrection, He, Himself, made a promise about this to His disciples, saying: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” Today, the newly-illuminated servant of God, _____, has been baptized in the name of the All-holy and Divine Trinity, and was born spiritually. He (*she*) that before was a child of darkness, is a child of light; he (*she*) that was a child of wrath, is a child of the Grace of God; he (*she*) that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, abides in light, in the land of the portion of the Saints, and is written in the book of the living. Because of this, Angels are rejoicing, making festival in the Church, and, as usual, they have great joy over one sinner who repents, as they consider one desiring to be written to their rank. We also rejoice, who have strived today in Church, for a new rod has been grafted to the True Vine, Christ the Lord, which, having been brought to life by the enrichment of His Grace, will bear a cluster of virtues. And it is right to rejoice at your piety, for you have received from the Holy Font this child of Grace and Light, as a spiritual rod, and you have been made for him (*her*) a spiritual father (*mother*) with a commission and reception on earth: to become a father (*mother*) now to him (*her*) through the grace of the Lord Who dwells in the Heavens. And for you as spiritual father (*mother*), it is right to understand, that it is necessary to have fatherly (*motherly*) love, in order to keep the one given you turned toward God,

all the days of your life. [And when the Lord will give the child the ability to put his (*her*) mind to good use, then] ...you shall instruct him (*her*) in the Orthodox Catholic Faith and all its ordinances, in which he (*she*) will come to know everything that is necessary for salvation and to keep it undefiled: and to lead him (*her*) to a life, as is proper, according to the Christian calling. Yes, for now he (*she*) that is illumined by the rays of Grace through spiritual birth, has been given to you by me, a sinner: that he (*she*) that was in darkness, after rebirth, will stand before the Heavenly Father in another age, as pure as today, and, in soul, whiter than snow, from the bath of regeneration. Thus, undefiled and unblemished by the action of the serpent that comes from the flesh, he (*she*) shall stand before the awesome Judge, Who will render to each according to his deeds. And clearly, today, the cursed Satan was cast out and all his activities; and God the Creator of all adopted him (*her*), who by Grace acquired spiritual birth, and was clothed as a member of the Church of Christ with the confession of the True Christian Faith. Thus, all the days of his (*her*) life, let him (*her*) remain in the One Faith without parting from the Church, and in the grace of adoption by the immutable God. Let him (*her*) never turn aside to the works of the evil one, and let him (*her*) ever stand opposed to him. And, with the help of God, he (*she*) shall be revealed as a mighty destroyer of all his snares, as a soldier of Christ, strengthened by the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the war against him. And, after such God-pleasing struggles, he (*she*) shall receive from the Originator and Judge of struggles, labor in the Heavenly Kingdom – the great blessedness of eternal life. If, by your guidance and piety, the newly-illumined, who has been counted worthy of your patronage, makes haste to act worthily, he (*she*) will not be deprived of a fitting inheritance by the Lord God. For your love made manifest to your spiritual son (*daughter*), which is love for another, he (*she*) will be beloved of the Heavenly Father, for “God is Love”. For soul-profiting instruction, he (*she*) will be guided by the straight path of the commandments of the Lord, that he (*she*) may proceed into the land of eternal life. As do you, yourself, so I pray warmly and from the heart, with true desire, unto God Who gives you this charge, that after many

years, he (*she*) may, with gladness, inherit it.

The Dismissal

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

Facing the People, the Priest says:

Priest: May He Who deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, (John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople *or* Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia); of St. (of the temple).....; of St. (of the day), whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

rites of Ablution and Tonsure

On the eighth day:

If the Person was just baptized:

The First Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Lord, through holy Baptism, You have given to Your servant remission of sins, and have bestowed upon him (*her*) a life of regeneration. Likewise, the same Lord and Master, ever graciously illumine his (*her*) heart with the light of Your countenance. Maintain the shield of his (*her*) faith unassailed by the enemy. Preserve pure and unpolluted the garment of incorruption with which You have clothed him (*her*), by Your grace, the seal of the Spirit, and showing mercy to him (*her*) and to us, through the multitude of Your mercies.

For blessed and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

A Second Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, through the Font You bestow heavenly illumination upon them that are baptized. You have regenerated Your newly-baptized servant by water and the Spirit, and have granted to him (*her*) remission of his (*her*) sins, whether voluntary or involuntary. Lay Your almighty hand upon him (*her*) and preserve him (*her*) by the power of Your goodness. Maintain, unassailed, the earnest of the Spirit,

and make him (*her*) worthy of eternal life, and of Your favor.

For You are our sanctification, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: With us, he (*she*) who has clothed himself (*herself*) in You, O Christ our God, also bows his (*her*) head to You. Keep him (*her*) ever a warrior, invincible in every attack of those who assail him (*her*) and us; and make us all victors, even unto the end, through Your incorruptible crown.

For Yours it is to be merciful and to save us; and unto You we send up glory, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest then dips the sponge in water and sprinkles the newly-chrismated, saying:

Priest: You are justified. You are illumined. You are sanctified. You are washed: in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.

*With the sponge the **Priest** washes the oil and Chrism from the face, the head, the breast and all the other places, saying:*

You are baptized. You are illumined. You have been Chrismated. You are sanctified. You are washed: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Tonsure

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O Master, Lord our God, You have honored mankind with Your own image, You have fashioned us with a reason-endowed soul and a pleasing body (for the body serves the reason-endowed soul). You placed the head above and endowed it with the chief portion of the senses, which, nevertheless, do not impede one another. You have covered the head with hair, that it not be injured with the changes of the weather, and have fitly joined together all our members, that with them all we may give thanks to You, the Great Creator. Likewise, O Master, through Your chosen vessel, the Apostle Paul, You have given us a commandment that we should do all things to Your glory. Bless, now, Your servant, _____, who has come to make a first offering shorn from the hair of his (*her*) head, and likewise his (*her*) Sponsor; and grant that they may all exercise themselves in Your law, and do those things which are well-pleasing in Your sight.

For You are a merciful God, Who loves mankind, and unto You we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Prayer With Heads Bowed

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, through the fulfilling of the baptismal font, by Your goodness, You sanctify them that believe on You. Bless this Your servant, and let Your blessing descend upon his (*her*) head. And as You blessed David the King by the hand of Your Prophet Samuel, bless also the head of Your servant, _____, by the hand of me, a sinner, inspiring him (*her*) with Your Holy Spirit; that [as he (*she*) increases in stature, and even unto a full age,] he (*she*) may send up glory to You, and behold the good things of Jerusalem all the days of his (*her*) life.

For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Taking the scissors, the Priest cuts the hair of the newly-chrismated in the form of a Cross, saying:

Priest: The servant of God, _____, is tonsured: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Deacon bows to the Priest, goes to his place before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion, and says:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for [His Beatitude] Metropolitan _____, for [His Grace] our Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the (*President*) and all civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its Armed Forces.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God _____, the Sponsors, and for the newly-illuminated servant of God, _____, and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: That he (*she*) may be kept in the faith by a pure confession, in all godliness, and the fulfilling of the commandments of Christ, all the days of his (*her*) life.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

The Deacon returns to his place to the right of the Priest.

Priest: O Lord our God, accept this fervent supplication of Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your tender mercy. Send down Your bounties upon us, and upon all Your people who await the rich mercy that comes from You,

for You are a merciful God, and You love mankind, and unto You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

Facing the People, the Priest says:

Priest: May He Who deigned to be baptized by John in the Jordan for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, (John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople or Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia); of St. (of the temple).....; of St. (of the day) , whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

THE CHURCHING OF A CHILD

*After the Ablution has been performed, the Mother and Child again retire to the Narthex. The **Priest** comes to them, and, while taking the child in his arms and making the sign of the Cross with him (her) before the gates of the Temple, says:*

Priest: The servant (*handmaid*) of God, _____, is churched: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*As he walks into the Church with the child, the **Priest** says:*

He (*she*) enters into Your house, to worship towards Your Holy Temple.

In the middle of the church:

Priest: The servant (*handmaid*) of God, _____, is churched: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In the midst of the church shall he (*she*) sing praises to You.

*Then the **Priest** carries the child to the door of the Sanctuary and says:*

The servant (*handmaid*) of God, _____, is churched: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*If the child is a male, the **Priest** now carries him through the Sanctuary, entering through the South door¹⁰, and exiting through the North door. If the child is a female, she is brought only to the Holy Doors.*

The Canticle of St. Simeon

Master, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people: a light for revelation to the gentiles and for the glory of Your people Israel.

*The **Priest** now returns the child to the mother, who has waited at the foot of the Ambo, by laying him/her before the Holy Doors. The mother makes three metanias, takes up the child, and departs.*

¹⁰ According to St. Simeon of Thessalonica, from the High Place, the Priest circles the Holy Table, pausing in the front to incline the infant toward the Holy Table as a sign of veneration.

The Dismissal

The Priest turns toward the icon of Christ and prays:

Priest: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

Standing in the Holy Doors, facing the People, the Priest says:

Priest: May He Who deigned to be carried in the arms of the righteous Simeon [and baptized by John in the Jordan] for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (*or* Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia); of St. (*of the temple*).....; of St. (*of the day*), whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

Priest: Grant, O Lord, a prosperous and peaceful life, health, salvation, and furtherance in all things, to the newly-baptized servant (*handmaid*) of God, _____, and to his (*her*) Sponsors and Parents, and to all those gathered here, and preserve them for many years.

People: God grant you many years!