Adult Catechism Class

# SACRAMENTS Baptism, Chrismation, Confession

# WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?



- In our worship services
   Sacraments hold the central spot
- They have a double character
   An outward visible sign
   An inward spiritual grace
   Called Mysteria because

"what we believe is not what we see" (St. John Chrysostom)

- Cannot explain how it happens – how exactly the Holy Spirit works
- Bring us into union and communion with God

# SACRAMENTS



- No set number in the Orthodox Church
- > However, there is a "hierarchy"
  - Eucharist and Baptism/Chrismation stand over all – then Confession, Unction, Marriage and /Ordination
- Other sacramental services:

- Blessing of waters
- Funeral
- > Tonsuring of a monastic
- Consecration of a monarch
- Also, many other practical blessings

# SACRAMENTS



- Sacraments are personal
  - Grace of God given individually
  - Reflect our devotion and worship
  - Name is used





Part of Rites of Initiation (along with Chrismation and Eucharist)
 Reception of the Holy Spirit
 Forgiveness of sins

### BAPTISM BROAD OVERVIEW



# >We receive purification/protection

- ≻Exorcisms
- ➤Guardian angel
- ➢ Renunciation of devil
- Acceptance of Christ
- Purification of water
- ➢Oil of gladness
- >New clothes, cross

Invocation of the Holy Trinity
 Triple immersion
 Reception of Holy Spirit
 First Communion

# STRUCTURE OF BAPTISM



- Initial prayer, giving of name
  3 exorcisms
  Attachment of guardian angel
  Renunciation of devil
  Acceptance of Christ
  Creed
  Final preparatory prayer
  Petitions for candidate
- Purification/sanctification of water
- >Oil of gladness
- Invocation of Holy Trinity triple immersion
- Chrismation seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit
- ➢Tonsuring

# STRUCTURE OF BAPTISM



- Blessing of new clothes
  Blessing of cross
  Symbolic washing
  First steps as a Christian
  Epistle
  Gospel
  First communion
- Concluding prayerReturn of child to parents

#### IMPLICATIONS OF THE MYSTERY/SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



- We receive forgiveness of sins (spiritual grace) through the water (tangible element)
- Receive protection from angels and God (spiritual grace) through the oil of gladness (tangible element)
- Participate in the death and resurrection of Christ (spiritual grace) through the triple immersion (tangible element)

- Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (spiritual grace) through Holy Chrism (tangible element)
- Commune with God (spiritual grace) through Holy Eucharist (tangible element)
- Initiated into the body of Christ (spiritual grace) through all three of sacraments (Baptism, Chrismation, Eucharist) – (tangible elements)

# NOTE ON HOLY OILS USED IN THE CHURCH



At least 4 kinds
Holy Chrism
Holy Unction
Oil of Gladness
Holy Oil





# HOLY CHRISM



Extension of Pentecost
 Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
 Becomes a prophet
 Participates in the royal Priesthood of Christ
 Calls us to act as witness to Christ
 Reconciliation



>Happens about every decade

- >Only patriarchs can consecrate it
- Expresses the unity of the Orthodox Church worldwide
- It's the only sacrament not mentioned specifically in the Scriptures, although anointing oil seen from Exodus onward



 Takes place during Holy Week
 Heads (or reps) of autocephalous churches invited

Lazaros Saturday

Area of room decorated, icon of the Mother of God, hope of the hopeless, placed outside the room

Palm Sunday

>End of Orthros, myrepsoi blessed

by the patriarch, given white coats, crosses, archon given lention

#### >Holy Monday

After presanctified, go to room, pariarch offers Aghiasmo service, pours some oil and wine in the cauldrons, puts in some ingredients, lights the fire which burns continuously thought the process, reads from Holy Gospel, myrepsoi start their work



During days, hierarchs invited to
 Holy Tuesday read the gospels – Matthew
 (Mon), mark (Tues), Luke (Wed), prayers offered mate offered mate

Pat comes each day with alabaster flask to add ingredients, including Chrism from previous decades to link the new batch to centuries of batches After liturgy, Paraklesis sung, prayers offered for those who offered material, finances, or other things for the making of the holy chrism

#### Holy Wednesday

- Refined chrism stored in chapel of St. Andrew
- Vestments of hierarchs prepared for next day



#### >Holy Thursday

- After Orthros, process from St. Andrew to church of St. George
- Patriarch leads with small silver chrismatory, next ranking hierarch with alabaster vase of Presanctified Chrism, next hierarch holds vase of newly made chrism, other hierarchs small vases of same, twelve large silver vases carried

#### each by 2 archimandrites

- Large vases put on solea, small ones in the altar, one small vase of unconsecrated chrism kept at patriarchate as medicine
- After great entrance, small silver chrismatory placed to left of paten and alabaster flask with the previous chrism to the right



- After consecration of Eucharist, after "and may the mercies of our great God and savior Jesus Christ be with all of you" then, "Let us be attentive!" the Consecration Prayer for the Holy Chrism is read
- After the service, the hierarchs process out of the church to the myrrhophylakion
- Consecrated in Liturgy, shows unity of faith



# HOLY CONFESSION



# HOLY CONFESSION



Confession linked to repentance
 An invitation to a new life
 Way of humility
 Way of living
 Recognized sin separates us from God
 Passover from death of life
 Way to transcend fallen condition
 Way to self-discovery

# HOLY CONFESSION



Way of Transfiguration
 Way to experience God's love
 Way to mourn the loss of God's presence through tears of repentance

Re-establishes bonds between God and man and man with man

The cause and consequence of prayer
 Allow for communion with God

# STRUCTURE OF HOLY CONFESSION

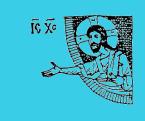
>Public/private > Petitions for penitent ➤Trisagion prayer ≻50th psalm  $\succ$ Hymns asking for God's mercy  $\succ$ Lord have mercy (40x) Statement of penitent

- Prayer of Priest
- ➢Confession
- Prayer acknowledging confession
- Absolution/laying on of epitrachelion and hands
- Dismissal/other prayers



# STRUCTURE OF HOLY CONFESSION









# BAPTISM, CHRISMATION, CONFESSION

- Sacraments confer a spiritual grace through a tangible element
- Central aspect of our worship
- >Mystery work of the Holy Spirit
- >Individual and personal
- Bring us into union and communion with God

# THANK YOU

