



# Baptism

*"I believe in one baptism for the remission of sins"*



# Baptize

- ✿ Greek word “*baptizo*” means “*to immerse, to submerge*”.  
In ancient Greek - baptizing an enemy ship meant they had sunk it.
- ✿ What did Jesus say to disciples when foretelling His death and glory and they asked him,  
“*Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left?*”
- ✿ “*Are you able...to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?*”
- ✿ He continues, “*With the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized...*”
- ✿ What did he mean?





- ✿ He was alluding to their martyrdom. (*Mk 10:33-40*); (*Mt 20:17-23*); (*Lk 18:31-34*)
- ✿ To baptize means to participate in Jesus' own death – to die to be reborn.





# Nicodemus *(Jn 3:1-21)*

- ✦ Who is Nicodemus?
- ✦ He was a wise and prominent Pharisee, member of the Sanhedrin, places Jesus body in the tomb with Joseph of Arimathea.
- ✦ Came to Jesus at night. Why?
- ✦ He asked Jesus what one should do to enter into kingdom of God. How did He reply?





# Nicodemus

- ✦ *“Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”*
- ✦ Do you get the meaning?
- ✦ Nicodemus did not understand & asks how can one do this when one is old.
- ✦ Jesus replies, *“Unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he **cannot** enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel at what I have said to you, “you must be **born anew**.” The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of Spirit.”*





# Nicodemus

- ✦ What does this mean?
- ✦ We are to be born into a life that is different from all the plants and animals. A life which is God himself.
- ✦ This life is given by Holy Spirit.
- ✦ We were given His image and freedom when we were created. But, after the Fall, was dimmed though our sinfulness and death.
- ✦ We regain it through Baptism which is the source of life in Christ.



# Baptism

- ✦ In the waters of the baptismal font all sin is drowned in life giving waters like the waters of the Red Sea or those of the Great Flood.
- ✦ From this death comes renewal, life in God, an eternal life, the life of the resurrected Christ. Like the waters in Creation.
- ✦ Christ in His death & resurrection gave us true life with Him in His Kingdom.





# John the Baptist

- ✿ What was baptism of John the Baptist?
- ✿ Baptism of water.
- ✿ John asked Jews to purify themselves from sins by repenting, confessing their sins and cleansing them in waters of Jordan river.
- ✿ John cried out, *“I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”* (Mt 3:11)
- ✿ A forerunner to baptism of Spirit brought by Christ. He announces the coming of Christ.





# Theophany

- ✦ What happens when Jesus is baptized by John?
- ✦ Holy Spirit is manifested as a dove.
- ✦ Signifies sanctification & deification of human nature.
- ✦ He purifies human nature by immersing His human body in waters of Jordan.
- ✦ He deifies it exposing it to light of Holy Spirit.
- ✦ He adopts it into sonship of Father.
- ✦ Came to unite divine nature with Human Nature so we could become divine.





# Baptism in Spirit

- ✦ Baptism no longer symbol of purification but a transformation, a rebirth.
- ✦ Allows everyone to participate in mystery of Christ.
- ✦ Jesus tells His disciples after His Resurrection, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.”* (Mt 28:19)





# Preparation

- ✿ Current practice is mostly infant baptism.
- ✿ Early Church those seeking baptism were called **catechumens**.
- ✿ They were systematically prepared by the entire community which usually occurred during the Great Lent.
- ✿ Process of learning that Church is truly “heaven on earth” giving them access to Christ’s table in His Kingdom.





# Enrollment



# Enrollment

- ✦ Person brought to church by a sponsor who testified to serious intentions of candidate.
- ✦ Was enrolled with priest with the rite of enrollment - First act in current Baptismal service.  
Takes place where?
- ✦ Signifies his name being added to Book of Life.
- ✦ Priest makes sign of cross three time on the forehead and breast and breaths on him three times. in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.





# Enrollment

- ✿ Lays his hand on his head and prays:
  - ✿ Fill him with faith, hope and love that he may know You as true God
  - ✿ Grant him to walk in your commandments
  - ✿ Inscribe him in Your Book of life and unite him to the flock of your inheritance.
  - ✿ Protect him with Your mercy and be attentive to his prayers.
- ✿ Now enrolled and informed of goal of Baptism: to be restored to the true life:  
*“that he may give thanks to You, worshipping and glorifying Your great and Most High Name, all the days of His life.”*





# Exorcism



# Exorcism

- ✿ Next we address the Devil to drive him away.
- ✿ Is this irrelevant in modern times?
- ✿ Who is the Devil? What is evil?
  - ✿ Power of negative force like the hatred that killed Jesus, that he defeated in Resurrection.



# Devil

- ✦ Cause of evil in the world.  
This world under control of the devil.  
Why Christ came to free us from his bondage.
- ✦ Created by God as an angel, invisible power, who was given free-will, and out of pride chose to oppose the plan of God.
- ✦ Fallen angel. Not evil by nature, but by will and action.
- ✦ Not just a negation or deprivation of good, but **a force with free will that always chooses evil.**
- ✦ Has under his leadership are legions and invisible powers, with their own "satanic teachings."



# Devil

- ✿ Constantly employs every method of deception to enslave man to evil forces and causes rebellion against God.
- ✿ What are some examples?
- ✿ Because there is no compromise between God and the devil, the struggle will continue until the end.
- ✿ Source of what we call “**spiritual warfare.**”
- ✿ Task of pious Christians is to discern plans of the devil.



# Exorcism

- ✦ How did Jesus deal with this evil power?
  - ✦ Cast out impure spirits & gave His disciples power to expel demons.
- ✦ Before Baptism one is enslaved by the devil.  
Driven by hidden fear of death, pride, self-centeredness.
- ✦ How are we most commonly affected by this power?
  - ✦ Through our pride. “I am not a sinner.”
- ✦ In exorcism, bondage to Devil is broken and Devil driven out.



# Reality of Evil

- ✿ As first step in approaching Baptism, we affirm our knowledge of this power - there is a demonic reality.
- ✿ Acknowledge that hatred and anger are not simply absence of love, but presence of a creative and deceptive dark power.
- ✿ Moving from a state of bondage to devil through physical death to one united with Christ in eternal life, free from the devil's bondage.  
A rebirth.



# Exorcism



- ✦ There are three prayers of Exorcism commanding in the the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for the devil to depart.
- ✦ The words included in these prayers are in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, *“awesome and wonderful invocations”, an act of “frightening and horrible power” which dissolves and destroys the evil power of the demonic world*



# Exorcism

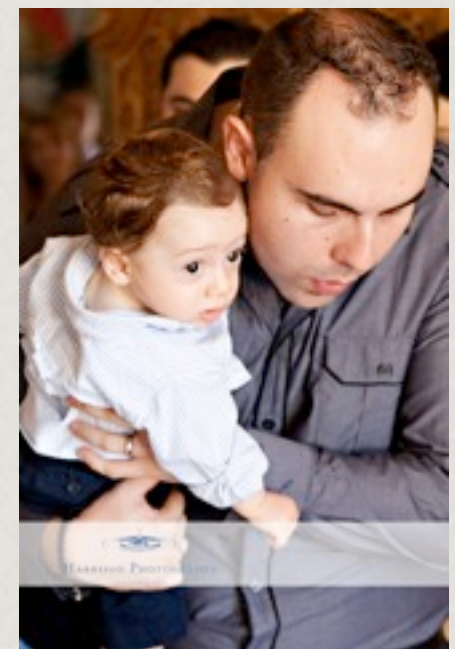
- ✿ Few excerpts:
- ✿ *By God who revealed the Tree of Life... who walks on the surface of the sea... whose interdict makes mountains melt away...who sits on the Cherubim and look upon the deeps...*
- ✿ *Begone and depart from this sealed, newly enlisted warrior of God; for I forcefully command thee by Him who rides upon the wings of the wind, and makes His ministers a flaming fire. Begone, and depart from this creature with all thy powers and thine angels!*
- ✿ Free from bondage of devil, candidate now free to receive the true life that comes from God.



# Renouncing Satan



- ✦ Candidate willingly turns to the West, darkness - side of Satan.
- ✦ Priest asks: *Do you renounce Satan and all his angels, and all his works and all his service and all his pride?*  
Catechumen responds, *I do!*  
Asked three times.
- ✦ Then asked to breath and spit on him.
- ✦ Can you see the significance of this?  
What does it mean to spit in someone's face?
- ✦ Triumphantly turns to East signifying his conversion and return to Paradise said to be in the East.





# Confession of Faith

- ✿ Cyril of Jerusalem explains, “*break him, that ancient pact with hell, there Paradise of God, which He planted to which our first father was exiled for is turning from the West to the east, the*
- ✿ Now asked, *Do you join Christ?* 2x then, *Do you believe in Him?*
- ✿ He then confesses his faith in the Holy Trinity, reciting the Creed.
- ✿ Afterwards asked, *Have you joined yourself to Christ?* After responding, *I have*, bows before Him and enters the Church for Baptism.





# Baptism

Preceded by renouncing Satan and  
confessing Faith in Holy Trinity.



# The Baptism

- ✿ Now ready for the Baptism to begin.
- ✿ First step is **Blessing of the Waters**
- ✿ Begins with doxology, *“Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.”* Makes the sign of the cross over the font.
- ✿ What does this remind you of?
- ✿ This is how Divine Liturgy begins.  
Reminds us - was once part of Divine Liturgy.  
Font takes the place of the Altar.





# Great Litany

- ✦ In Great Litany that precedes the blessing a few important petitions are added.
- ✦ *“That this water may be **sanctified** with the power and effectual operation and **descent of the Holy Spirit.**”*
- ✦ In Creation story of Genesis, says Holy Spirit *“moved on the face of the waters”* creating world, transforming chaos into cosmos.
- ✦ It is His descent and power and operation that is called upon in the sanctification of the water.





# Great Litany

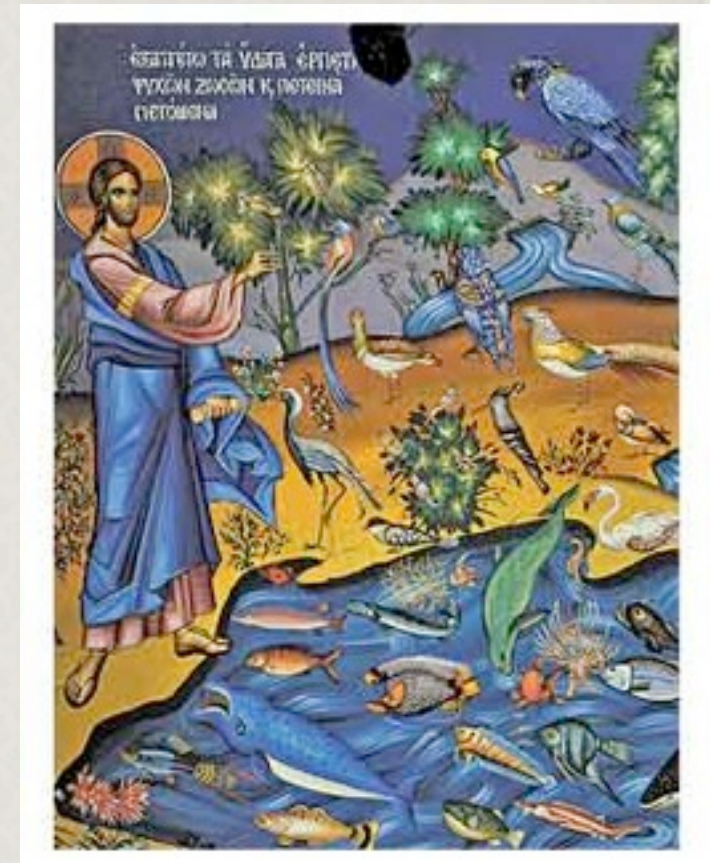
- ✦ *“That there be sent down into it the **grace of redemption** the blessing of the Jordan...”*
- ✦ Christ by His descent into the Jordan, has made it into the power of redemption for all men. The water is changed
- ✦ *“That there may come upon this water the purifying operation of the **Super-Substantial Trinity**...”*
- ✦ Christ’s baptism was first epiphany of Trinity in cosmos.  
Redemption involves receiving revelation of Holy Trinity and to be in communion with it.





# Great Litany

- ✦ *“That this water may prove effectual unto the averting of every snare of enemies both visible and invisible...”*
- ✦ The redemption of matter and its restoration to its original function is a means of God’s presence and therefore a protection and defense against demonic reality.
- ✦ *“that he who is baptized therein may be made worthy of the Kingdom incorruptible...”*
- ✦ This is the beginning of eternal life, uniting us in the this world with the world to come.





# Great Litany

- ✦ *“that he may become a child of light and a heir of eternal good things...”*
- ✦ Christ brings into existence as new race whose principle of existence is that it has seen light, has received it and made it into its own life.  
*“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”* (John 1:4)
- ✦ *“that he may be a member and partaker of the Death and resurrection of Christ our God...”*
- ✦ In font old man dies and new is born into resurrection of eternal life.





# Blessing of the Water

- ✦ Blessing is similar to that done at Theophany.
- ✦ The beautiful prayers offered by priest come to a climax asking God to sanctify this water by His presence.
- ✦ We are reminded of Christ's baptism in the Jordan when Christ was immersed and there was the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.





# Blessing of the Water



- ✦ *“**Manifest Yourself, O Lord, in this water, and grant that he who is to be baptized may be transformed therein to the putting away of the old man,** which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*
- ✦ *and the **putting on of the new,** which is renewed according to the Image of Him that created him,*
- ✦ *that being planted **in the likeness of your death** through Baptism, he may become a **sharer of Your resurrection;***
- ✦ *and preserving the Gift of Your Holy Spirit, and increasing deposit of Grace, he may attain unto the prize of his high calling, and accounted among the number of the first born, whose names are written in a Heaven, in you our God and Lord Jesus Christ....*



# Anointing with Oil

- ✦ Water is next **anointed with oil**.
- ✦ Ordinary olive oil is brought which is blessed by the priest.
- ✦ Why do we use olive oil?
  - ✦ used for healing & in lamps a source of light.
  - ✦ Also symbol of peace –
    - ✦ Where do we see this symbol in Bible?
    - ✦ A dove brought brought an olive branch to Noah to announce God's and reconciliation with man after the Flood.





# Anointing with Oil

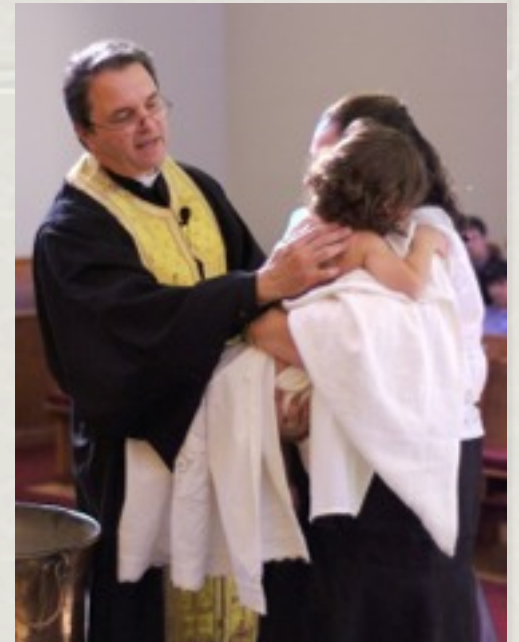
- ✦ Offers prayers that it may be blessed through work of Holy Spirit and become “*an anointing for incorruption, and armor of righteousness, a renewal of soul and body, for an aversion of every assault of the devil, and a deliverance from evil of all who are anointed with it or who partake of it.*”
- ✦ Again creation is made perfect again. Matter returns to its intended purpose.
- ✦ The priest makes three signs of the cross with the oil over the water.





# Anointing with Oil

- ✦ Candidate anointed with oil on brow, breast, between shoulders for healing of his body and soul, on his ears for the hearing of faith; on the hands for God's hand who fashioned me; and on the feet So he may walk in the way of His commandments.
- ✦ He is being recreated, his body, members and all his senses.
- ✦ Baptism is concerned about whole being, body and soul. It is restoration of man as wholeness, reconciliation of soul and body.
- ✦ Whole body is covered before immersion.





# Immersion

- ✦ He is now immersed three times.  
*“The servant of God is baptized in the name of the Father. Amen. And of the Son, Amen. and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”*
- ✦ Immersion is important for this renewal, this is a **death and resurrection** in Christ.
- ✦ We cannot think of any sacrament as merely obligation. They are very food of our life as an Orthodox Christian.
- ✦ What does it mean to die?





# Death & Resurrection

- ✦ What is significance of Cross and Resurrection?
- ✦ Abolished death as a spiritual reality, removing sting of sin, filling death with Himself, His love and life.
- ✦ Makes death into joyful passage into a fuller communion, fuller love.
- ✦ We are baptized into His death. No longer fearing death.
- ✦ Can you see how Baptism is a death of death?





# Death

- ✿ Why are we saved?
- ✿ **Not** because we believe in His supernatural powers,  
because we **accept to make our life His life.**  
Faithfulness means following Him.
- ✿ In Baptism we descend into a death of our own ego and emerge with His life.  
We now live in Him and He in us.



# Faithfulness

- ✿ Christ ascended to heaven, not to another world, but the reality of God, life free from mortal sinfulness and separation from God.
- ✿ Paul says, to be with Him we must have *“died and our life hidden with Christ in God.”* (Col 3:3)
- ✿ What does it mean to know Him?
- ✿ To drink His cup and baptized with His baptism, desiring death that made Him lay down His life for salvation of the world.
- ✿ This is way to think about faithfulness.



# Baptism

- ✿ Paul says, We are baptized “*in the likeness of the Death and Resurrection of Christ... that being buried, after the pattern of Christ’s death, in baptism, we may, in the like manner, be partakers of His resurrection.*” (Rom 6:5)
- ✿ Baptism is to believe in Christ. This implies that one “*be dead and have one’s life hid within Him in God.*” (Col 3:3)
- ✿ It is more than a cleansing of sins and the reception of grace necessary for a Christian life. It is a renewal.
- ✿ This is why infant Baptism is performed in the Church. To give a rebirth in Christ.



# Baptism

- ✦ What is Baptism?
- ✦ Encounter of faith and Divine response to it.  
Death and rebirth  
God's response to faith.





# Mystery of Baptism

- ✦ The catechumen removes his old garments is rubbed with oil making him a “*warrior in every attack.*”
- ✦ Immersed three times in water of font in name of Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✦ “*United with Him in a death like His,*” he is buried with Christ in His tomb (the font) to participate in His Resurrection. Encounters Christ who is grafted onto Him.
- ✦ Mystery of the communion is accomplished.





# Chrismation



# Chrismation

- ✦ Immediately after coming out of the font he is anointed with the Holy Spirit. The special holy Oil signifies the “*gift of the Holy Spirit.*”
- ✦ *Just like the Holy Spirit rested on Christ as he arose for the Jordan it also rest on the newly baptized. He become a child of the father, crying “Abba, father” to his God. He has been adopted as a son by the father, a member of the trinitarian family.*





# Chrismation

- ✦ Chrismation is a fulfillment of the baptism.
- ✦ Being anointed he becomes like Christ, the “*anointed one*”, by the Anointment of the Anointed One.



# White Garment

- ✿ Puts on white garment.  
Meaning?
- ✿ “*a garment of immortality.*”
- ✿ The garment communicates the radical newness of the purity and righteousness, of the new spiritual life that has been obtained in the immersion and which will not be assured through the “*seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.*”
- ✿ Hymn sung: *Vouchsafe unto me the robe of light, O thou Who clothest thyself with light as with a garment, Christ, our God, plenteous in mercy.*





# Tonsure

“Do all things to Your Glory”



# Tonsure

- ✿ Hair is taken from the newly baptized cut in the shape of the cross.
- ✿ Cutting the hair was a way in ancient time of identifying slaves.
- ✿ This tonsure affirms that he is now the slave of Christ.
- ✿ He is henceforth called “*servant of God*” followed by his baptismal name when he comes to the Church.





# Baptism

- ✿ Baptism is a great mystery, not a magical act.
- ✿ Becomes real through faith and free cooperation with God who now live within the baptized person.
- ✿ Now member of His Body, His Church and can continually renew their baptism through Confession and Holy Communion.
- ✿ Life in Christ is a continual way of life, a way of perfection, a way to Theosis.



- ✿ Ready to step forth into new and high calling in Christ. Cleansed and transformed, becoming part of Him, dying to his old self and reborn into Christ's resurrection.
- ✿ In ancient times the person next led in a procession to the place where divine liturgy was being held to participation in Holy Communion.
- ✿ The wore this white robe for a week at which time the oil from the Chrismation along with white robe were removed and they were tonsured.
- ✿ Today there are differing sequences since not tied to Divine Liturgy.



Procession  
Readings  
Holy Communion



# Procession

- ✦ Following this is the procession around the baptismal font.
- ✦ In earlier times when the baptism was complete they were led by the Bishop from the place of the baptism to the Church to participate in the Holy Eucharist.
- ✦ As the walk around this sing the verse from Paul's epistle to the Galatians:  
*"...as many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, Alleluia!" (Gal 3:27)*



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# Readings



## ✦ Epistle and Gospel

### ✦ Epistle (Romans 6:3-11)

“Or 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.”



# Holy Communion

- ✦ Then they will be offered Holy Communion which is the fulfillment of the Chrismation.





# Infant Baptism



# Infant Baptism



- ✿ Grace comes to soul of an infant just same as if it had chosen and made a confession of faith.
- ✿ When he comes of age, must willingly dedicate himself to God based on grace and desire that is already in his heart.
- ✿ Matter of freely acknowledging it and giving thanks to God.



# Godparent



- ✿ The Godparent has a BIG responsibility to guide the infant as he grows towards this dedication. Have made this commitment to God. This is an obligation.
- ✿ For infant the seed of Christian life is given to him acting as an educating power within but not yet his own.
- ✿ As soon as he has awareness and chooses it it becomes his own.



# Godparent

- ✿ Significant period of time before this happens. He is guided internally and with support of Godparent and family.
- ✿ Challenge for Godparent?
- ✿ How to lead baptized so when does become aware, will recognize grace-given powers within himself, accept them with joyful desire and obligations that go with a Christian life.



# Godparent

- ✿ If there is a turning away from the Christian life God's grace will be withdrawn and will be in danger of being permanently separated from God.
- ✿ Godparent obligation is to not allow sin to take away the gift of baptism.
- ✿ Must step in and guide child's development when necessary.
- ✿ Done in a way that encourages so his dedication will grow by itself until a free dedication takes over.





# Baptism

*"I believe in one baptism for the remission of sins"*



# Orthodox Parenting

- ✿ Like a seed that has been planted in good soil.  
Needs to be nurtured & Weeds need to be pulled
- ✿ How to do this?
- ✿ While still in cradle we should make sure he is involved in the Mysteries and made comfortable with the Orthodox way of life.
- ✿ A Christian environment needs to be created from earliest age.



# Orthodox Parenting

- ✿ Frequent communion is important. The Blood and Body of Christ sanctifies him
- ✿ Frequent church attendance, kissing the icons, the cross making the sign of the cross over him, having icons visible in the home
- ✿ There is also a guardian angel that has been assigned at the time of Baptism.



# Orthodox Parenting

- ✦ Intentions of the parent are communicated silently.
- ✦ their love, their piety, the nature of their soul is seen by an infant.
- ✦ Eyes are open channels for expression. often how souls meet.
- ✦ Protect the cradle with sincere piety.  
Combined with Guardian angel and Holy Mysteries and Church life, an atmosphere is formed around the infant.



# Orthodox Parenting

- ✿ Don't let passions take control. Counter acts of anger, and sexual desires to adulthood.
- ✿ Practice the virtues in the home, help control self-willed and self-centered pleasures, lead him to respect of the body but not become a slave to it.
- ✿ Moderation in food, not allowing laziness to set in, or over dependence on sensual enjoyments. strengthen the self-will Set the example.
- ✿ Train to endure misfortune and difficulty without distress.



# Orthodox Parenting

- ✿ Make broad use of sacred images, use hymns. stimulate a sacred imagination. Help create sacred inner images.
- ✿ Direct curiosity to positive outcomes rather than forming doubts.
- ✿ Help undertake meaningful investigations rather than idle thoughts.
- ✿ Continually educate in wisdom of Church, life of Christ, lives of saints.



# Orthodox Parenting

- ✿ Challenge is forming good attitudes.  
Oversee the kind of books, movies that you allow your children to watch.
- ✿ Don't let idleness lead to bad behaviors. A child left to himself will become self-willed and you will lose your influence.
- ✿ Encourage obedience and respect for parents.  
Often necessary to be forceful to break self-will.
- ✿ Inspire them to do good deeds. Help them find the opportunities to do so.



# Orthodox Parenting

- ✿ Do not direct them in a way they will feel forced to become transgressors of your will.
- ✿ Watch for their conscience at work and ask what is wrong.

Nurture the advice of conscience.

Have family prayer time.

Pray daily with them.



# Remember

- ✿ Once grace is lost its hard to get it back.
- ✿ New awakening is required.
- ✿ Necessary to bring to consciousness shame and insignificance of what is valued in error.
- ✿ Grace will not be freely given to one who has turned away from God.
- ✿ Must make first move to return to God's embrace.
- ✿ Often the trials of life will bring such a person back to awareness.
- ✿ God will let these difficulties happen and one does not gain any comfort separated from God.





# Baptism

*"I believe in one baptism for the remission of sins"*