



Adult Catechism Class

SACRAMENTS I

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

BAPTISM



- 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 prayer
- Return 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



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

PREPARATION AND CONSECRATION OF HOLY CHRISM



- 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

PREPARATION AND CONSECRATION OF HOLY CHRISM



- 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, patriarch offers Aghiasmo service, pours some oil and wine in the cauldrons, puts in some ingredients, lights the fire which burns continuously through the process, reads from Holy Gospel, myrepsoi start their work

PREPARATION AND CONSECRATION OF HOLY CHRISM



- During days, hierarchs invited to read the gospels – Matthew (Mon), mark (Tues), Luke (Wed), John (Thu)
- Pat comes each day with alabaster flask to add ingredients, including Chrism from previous decades to link the new batch to centuries of batches
- Holy Tuesday
 - 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

PREPARATION AND CONSECRATION OF HOLY CHRISM



➤ Holy Thursday

- After Orthros, process from St. Andrew to church of St. George
- Patriarch leads with small silver chrysmatory, 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 chrysmatory placed to left of paten and alabaster flask with the previous chrism to the right

PREPARATION AND CONSECRATION OF HOLY CHRISM



- 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
- Hymns asking for God's mercy
- 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



➤ Importance of Spiritual Father...



RECAP



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

