

Explanation of the Holy Baptism



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(1) What is Baptism

Baptism is the sacrament of the mystery of being born again and it is the first resurrection. It is the deliverance from slavery to the devil the violator.

It is the illumination of the nous and its liberation from the darkness that is inherited from the fallen nature of Adam.

Baptism grants the baptized the empowerment to become a son of God if he preserves the trust of Grace and increases it.

Baptism is followed by Chrismation and Holy communion, and the three sacraments are joined and non separated since the early days of Christianity.

(2) The exorcism and the immunization

The priest reads the prayers of exorcism to expel the devil and all his powers and effects. He asks God to crush down Satan under the feet of the baptized. He asks for the illumination of his *nous*. He asks to couple with his life a luminous angel who shall deliver him from every plot of the adversary.

He asks to make him a honourable member of the church and a son of light and an heir of the Kingdom of heaven, so that he can conduct himself in accordance with the commandments of God and receive the blessedness of the saints.

(3) Renunciation of Satan and Aligning to Christ

The sponsors renounce Satan and blow on him towards the West, and align to Christ towards the East on behalf of the child. They the Creed. They become responsible in the eyes of God of the spiritual life of the child, his personal holiness and his membership in the Orthodox Church, and they guarantee his spiritual education and his perseverance on Holy Communion that adheres him to Christ as a branch to the tree.

(4) The Censing and the Opening prayer

Vested with white the priest censes around the baptismal font, the church and the people. By customs he chants

“When thou wast baptized in the Jordan O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

Then he blesses the font with the Gospel saying: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Then the Litany for Baptism.

(5) The Blessing of the waters

The starts with a prayer quietly asking the empowerment for this great mystery, then he says loudly 3 times these exclamations while praying:

Great art thou, O Lord, and marvellous are thy works, and no word shall be sufficient to hymn thy wonders.

he continues...

then

+Wherefore, O King, lover of mankind, be present now through the visitation of thy Holy Spirit and sanctify this water

he continues...

then

+Let all adverse powers be crushed under the tracing of the sign of thy cross.



That being planted together with the likeness of thy death through Baptism, he may become a partaker of thy resurrection and having kept intact the gift of thy Holy Spirit, and having increased the trust of grace, he may receive the prize of his calling on high, and be numbered with those first-born who are enrolled in heaven, in Thee, our God and Lord Jesus Christ.

(6) Prayer and anointing with oil of gladness

The priest bless the oil, anoints the sanctified waters: let us attend: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia then

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, unto the healing of the soul and body, unto the hearing of faith, that he may walk in thy footsteps, thy hands have created me and fashioned me.

(7) The act of triple-Baptism

The Servant of God, N., is baptized, in the name of the Father, Amen. And of the Son, Amen. And of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The immersions and emersions symbolize the death and rising again with Christ; the death of the Old man and the rising of the New man.

(8) The Chrismation with Holy Myron

The priest says the prayer of Chrismation and chrismates the child on the forehead, both eyes, both nostrils, the mouth, both ears, the chest, both hands and on both feet saying:

The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sponsor repeats: Seal

The baptized receives the gift of the Spirit of adoption and the charisma for his service in the community.

(9) The ablution

Thou hast been baptized; thou hast been illumined; thou hast been sanctified; thou hast been washed; in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(10) The Tonsure

The hair of the child is cut in the sign of a cross.

(11) The dressing

The servant of God N., is clothed with the robe of righteousness, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

“Grant me a luminous robe, O thou who coverest thyself with light as with a garment, O most merciful Christ our God.”

(12) The procession with candles

The priest leads the sponsors and the neophyte censing around the font and into the midst of the nave:

“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

(13) The Apostle & the Gospel

“So then also, do ye consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

“Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

(14) The Holy Communion

Of thy mystic Supper, O Son of God, receive me today as a communicant...

The Blood and Body of Christ.
Amen

(15) Final Ektania and Dismissal

The priest says the final Ektania and the Dismissal.

May God preserve the newly-illumined along with his sponsor for many year!