



WELCOME TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Orthodox Church is people—God’s People—who **Gather** together in His name; **Share** a common Faith and hope based on the love of God; **Affirm** the truth, or orthodoxy, of their Faith, belief, and experience; and **Proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ to all.

The Orthodox Church was planted in North America in the late eighteenth century. Today, there are millions of Orthodox Christians in thousands of parishes and missions throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH: HOLY SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

Holy Scripture is the inspired word of God and the written record of His revelation. The Old Testament relates the manner in which God prepared the world for the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ. The New Testament completes God’s revelation by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord, God, and Savior. Holy Scripture is the foremost product of Holy Tradition.

Holy Tradition is that which is passed on or given over within the Church, from the time of Jesus Christ to the present. It is the ongoing life of God’s People and is the living link by which Orthodox Christians of all ages are united in a common Faith, life, and experience. Holy Tradition consists of that which is essential to God’s revelation and necessary for our salvation. Elements of Holy Tradition include, prayer, liturgical worship, the accepted creeds and acts of the early Church’s councils, the writings of the Holy Fathers, the lives of the saints, and the Church’s artistic and musical expressions.

THE HOLY TRINITY

There are three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—in one God. While separate and distinct, each shares fully in the divine nature and will: is equally infinite, perfect, all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-existing, and eternally the same, and united in perfect Love.

God the Father is the Source of all things. Because of His great love for humanity, the Father sent **God the Son, Jesus Christ**, into the world. Jesus Christ is the only-begotten Son of God and the fullest revelation of the

Father. He became man—while remaining God—in order to redeem us and to unite us with God. Jesus Christ is our Savior who leads all humanity into God’s Kingdom. **God the Holy Spirit** is the Sanctifier, the Inspirer, and the Comforter. He proceeds from the Father and was sent into the world to dwell with us and to sustain us.

THE CHURCH IS...

One because it is one body with one head, Jesus Christ. The Church cannot be divided or separated because Christ cannot be divided or separated;

Holy because the Holy Spirit dwells in God’s People inasmuch as they respond to His call to salvation and the gift of eternal life;

Catholic because it is whole, complete, lacking in nothing, and universal; and

Apostolic because it continues in the apostles’ teaching and experience. The Church carries on the same mission and ministry as Christ and the apostles, namely to bring the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ to all.

SALVATION

Salvation is the process by which we enter into eternal life with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Salvation ends our separation from God, enabling us to begin a new life according to His will. It is ultimately attained through Faith and living a lifestyle based on Christ's life. Salvation is to be proclaimed to all by God's People through evangelism, mission, and witness.

WORSHIP

Private Prayer is essential for spiritual growth. It is inseparably linked to the Church's liturgical worship.

Liturgical worship is the public proclamation of God as Lord. It is the common action, or liturgy, of God's People.

The Divine Liturgy is the most important worship experience. During the Divine Liturgy, we proclaim God's Word as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and we respond in thanksgiving through the reception of Holy Communion—The Body and Blood of Christ.

The Sacraments enable Christ God to enter into our personal lives as we become members of His Church through **Baptism** and **Chrismation**; proclaim, through **Holy Communion**, His death and resurrection while awaiting His Second Coming at the end of time; are forgiven by and reconciled with Him and those around us through **Penance**; share His love through **Marriage**; dedicate our lives and our work to Him through **Ordination**; and receive His healing grace through **Holy Unction**.

The Liturgical Year includes the annual cycle of feasts and fasts, as well as various other rites and services for specific occasions and needs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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