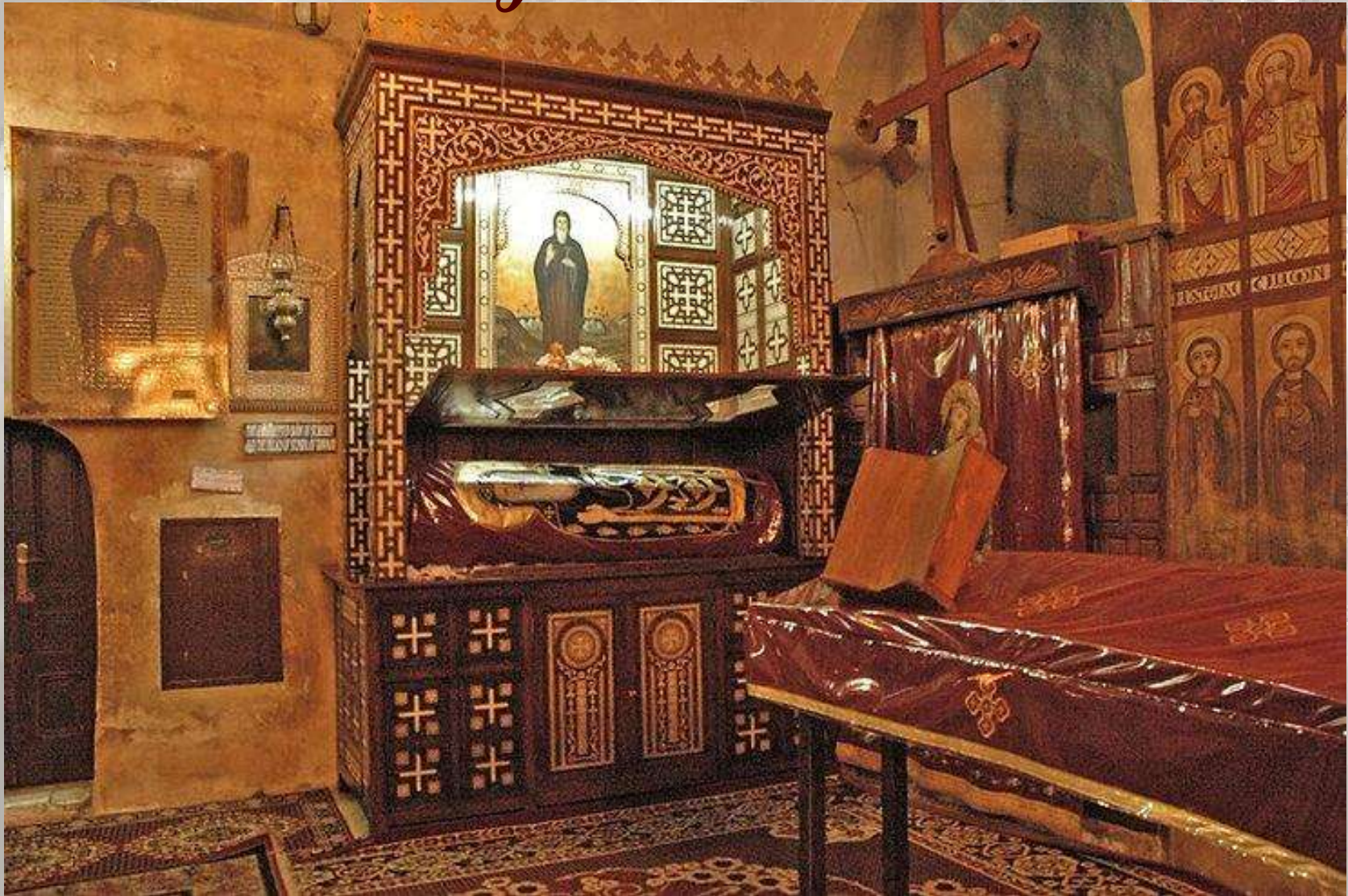


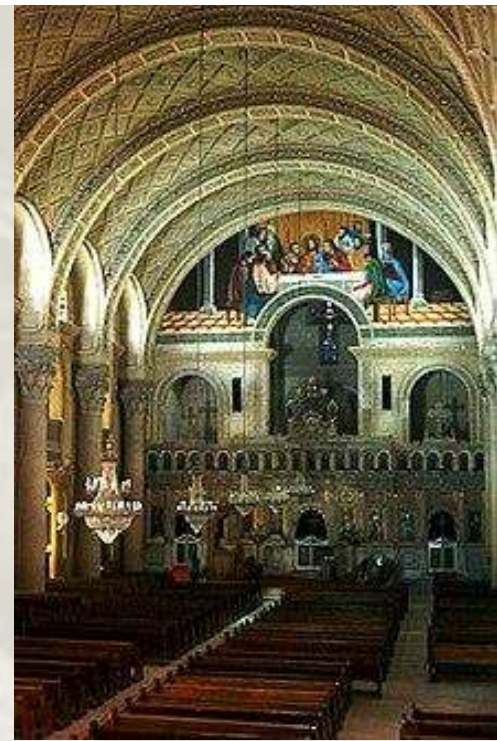
Being Orthodox!



Dogma

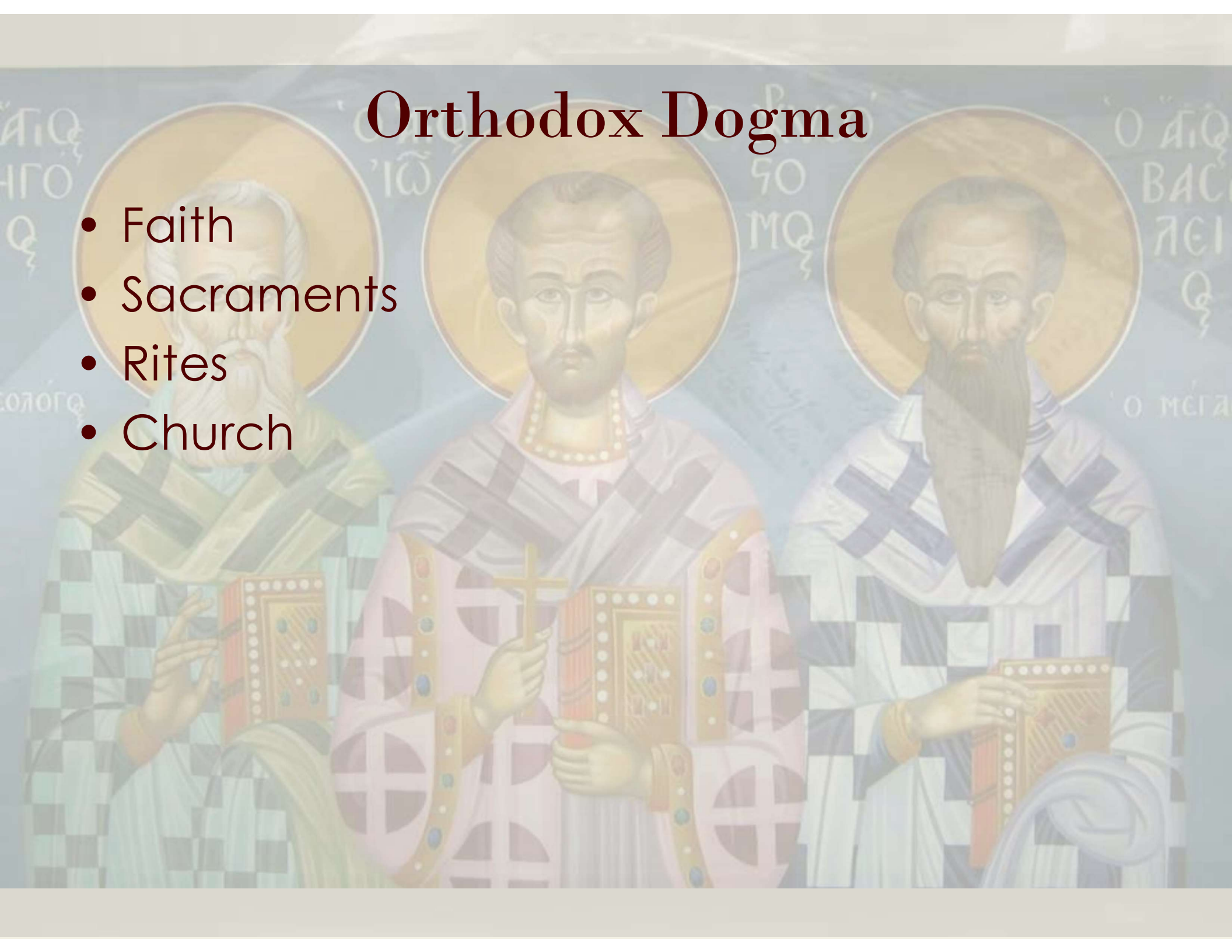
“Orthodox”

- Straight teaching.
 - Ancient path; no deviation
 - Path: Christ, apostles
 - Path that the saints lived.
- *Thus says the Lord:*
“Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.”
But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ (Jer 6:16)
- *The reason orthodox members leave the Orthodox church, is exactly the same reason non-orthodox members join: Orthodoxy!*



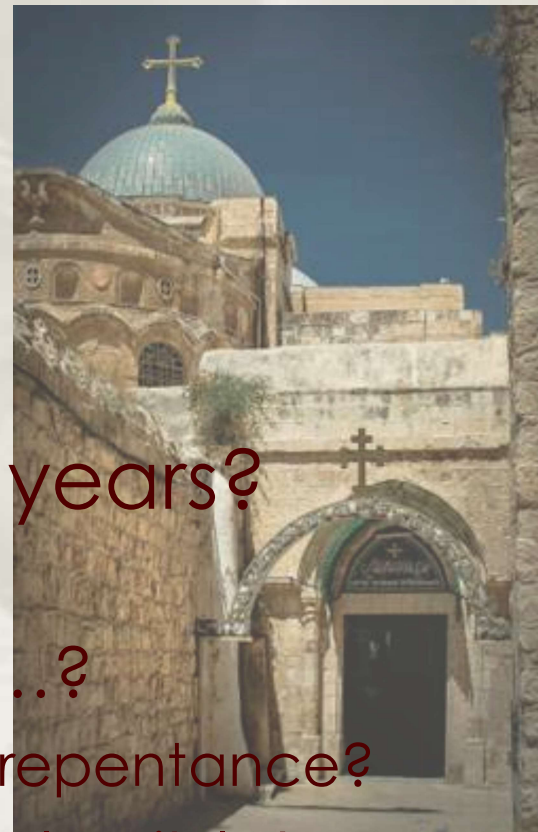
Orthodox Dogma

- Faith
- Sacraments
- Rites
- Church



“New” Christianity

- < 500 years!
- Was the Holy Spirit absent for 1500 years?
 - Were all “lost”? Deceived by sacraments, priesthood, intercessions...?
 - All saints, martyrs, fathers, monks? lived in repentance?
 - Inconsistency with teachings of The Holy Bible!
 - Doubt about the salvation and faith of all these saints?!
 - Arrogance
 - Orthodox are accused of fanaticism and pride!
- “Latter-day prophets”
 - *“Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Matt 24:11)”*



Orthodox Faith: Trinity



- Orthodox Christians live by the law of faith that represents the truth

Truly... We believe in one God, God the Father, the Pantocrator...

بالحقيقة... نؤمنُ باللهِ واحدٍ، اللهِ الآبِ
ضابطِ الكلِّ...

- One God, one nature... in three Persons...
 - Father whom no one sees;
 - Son born of Him before all ages...
 - Have seen Him, heard Him, and touched Him...
 - *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life” (1Jn 1:1)*
 - Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and sent to us... teaches us worship to the Holy Trinity... speaker of all the prophets and apostles.

Orthodox Faith: Christ (*Creed*)

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate ...

هذا الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر، ومن أجل
خلاصنا، نزل من السماء، وتجسّد ...

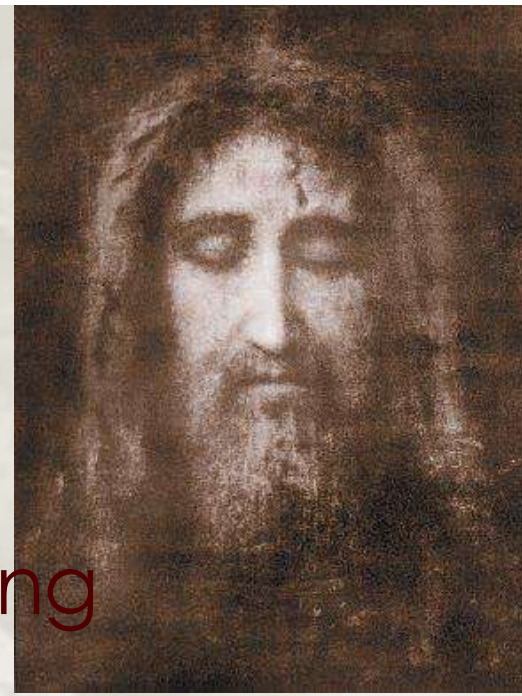


- Orthodox Christians believe in Christ
 - Son, Logos (Word), the true God, incarnate... from the Virgin Mary... for our sake... and for our salvation...
- Orthodox Christ:
 - Complete human being, Complete God
 - Redeemer, by His Blood
 - Savior from corruption and death, through His resurrection..
 - Ascended to heaven...and will also come in His glory to judge all (the living and the dead)..
 - Await his coming with longing, love, hope, fear

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

وننتظرُ قيامةَ الأمواتِ، وحياةَ الدهرِ الآتي. آمين.

Orthodox Faith: Christ (*Liturgy of St. Gregory*)



- THE BEING - Φηετωοπ - الكائنُ
 - Ever existing; Existing on His Own
- The Eternal-πιδιδιος - الذاتيُّ : self-existing
- Co-essential- ἸΟμοοϋσιος - المساوي
 - Homo^ousios (Greek: ὁμο^oύσιος): “**same** in essence”
 - Equal with the Father in Nature
- Co-enthroned- Ἰϫνηθρονος - الجليسُ
 - Sitting together on the same throne : ὁμοοϋσιος
- Co-creator with the Father - والخالقُ الشريكُ مع الآبِ

O You, THE BEING, who is and who abides forever, the eternal, co-essential, co-enthroned, and co-creator with the Father,

أيها الكائنُ الذي كانَ، الدائمُ إلى الأبدِ، الذاتيُّ، والمساوي، والجلسُ، والخالقُ الشريكُ مع الآبِ.

Orthodox Faith: Church

And in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We confess one Baptism, for the remission of sins.

وبكنيسة واحدة مقدسة جامعة رسولية.
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا.



- **One** church...one body with one head, which is Christ...gathering together righteous people
- **Holy** church with its sacraments and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within it.
- **Catholic** (universal) church that calls all to faith and gives birth to them from one womb: one baptism
 - *“one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph 4:5)*
- **Apostolic** Church derives its roots and authenticity from the Apostolic Fathers.
- **Single church** (وحيدة)...there is none other; no salvation outside the church;
 - *“That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us... (Jn 17:21)*

Orthodox Sacraments

- The Orthodox Christian...
 - begins his eternal life with **baptism** and **chrismation**...
 - remains in this new life through **repentance** and **Communion**...
 - enjoys discipleship and forgiveness at the hands of the **priest**.
 - is **married** through a divine sacrament
 - derives his spiritual, psychological and physical healing from prayers of the **anointing of the sick**.



Orthodox Sacraments

- The Orthodox Christian...

Eagerly awaits the confession session to ask for: solution and absolution...healing and forgiveness.. comfort and peace...

- *“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matt 18:18*

Sees Christ in his spiritual father...

- *“For You are the One Who both offers and is offered, the One Who is received and is distributed.” (Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom - Greek Orthodox)*

Kisses the hand that touches Christ every day on the altar.



Orthodox Sacraments

- The Orthodox Christian...

awaits the Sunday Liturgy like someone waiting to enter heaven...

- *“But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.” (Ps 5:7)*

There he meets Christ face to face, touches him.. eats his body and drinks his blood..

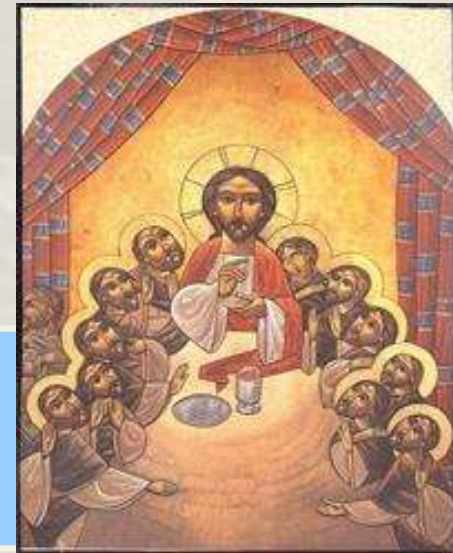
- *“We behold You upon the Altar and we partake of Your body and Your precious blood.” (Pi-oik hymn)*

He abides in Him and He in Him.. He praises His angels and His saints.. He rejoices with the victors.

- *“...that we may become one body and one spirit, and may have a share and an inheritance with all the saints”*

He throws all his sins and burdens on the altar and the sacrifice... He prostrates before the word of God, to be heard and seen...

- *“Worship God in fear and trembling”*



Orthodox Rites

- Rites in the life of an Orthodox is daily life...
 - Through it he expresses his doctrine and remain steadfast in what he received; Rites simplify dogma to all

The Holy Trinity

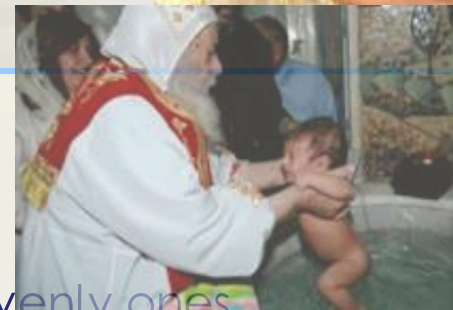
- is not an idea or a theory
- Life deriving its strength with the sign of the cross made dozens of times:
 - *“In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit one God, Amen.”*

Christ Crucified

- is not history
- Reality declared before our eyes every day on the Altar

Death with Christ

- is not an imaginary idea
- Immersion in the water of baptism: burial, and resurrection.
- Dressed in white and red as the adornment of the victorious heavenly ones
 - *“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev 7:14)*

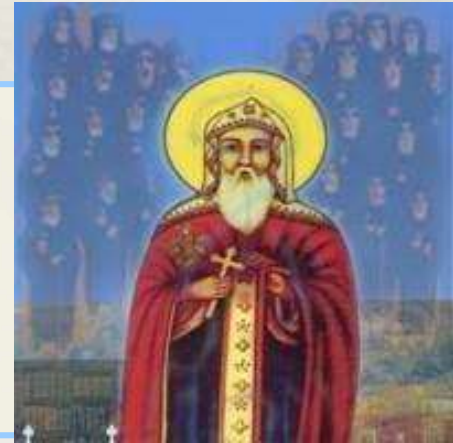


Orthodox Rites

- Rites in the life of an Orthodox is daily life...
 - Through it he expresses his doctrine and remain steadfast in what he received; Rites simplify dogma to all

The Saints

- are not historical stories and life biographies
- Powerful living people; cloud of witnesses (*Pope Kyrillos, St. Mina*)
- Icons, incense; Synaxarion and Doxologies.



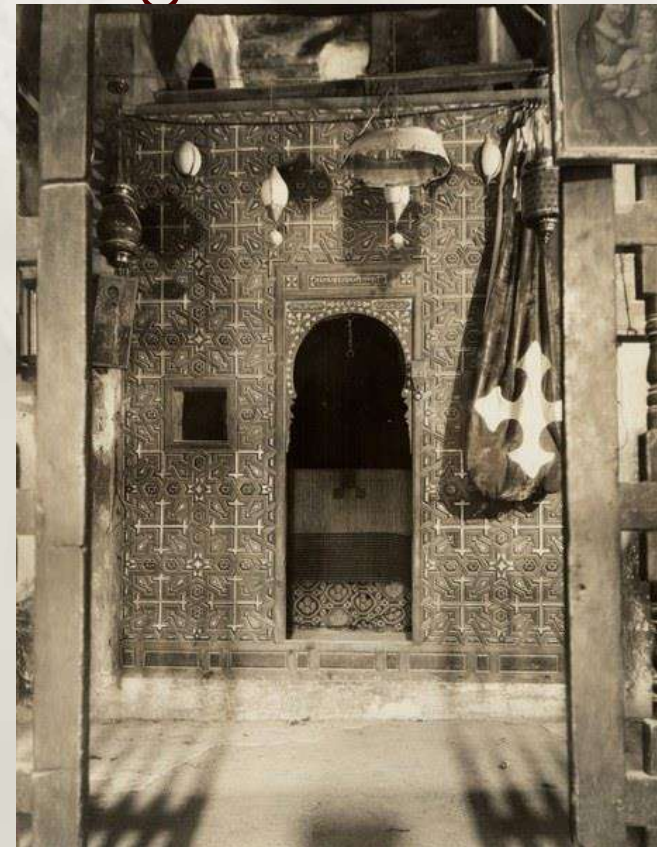
The Departed

- Are not dead; We are a church of the living; honor their relics
- *“For there is no death for Your servants, but a departure”* (*Litany of the Departed*)
- When we pray for the departed... we bless and rejoice
- In the prayer of the third day, we rejoice in the promise of resurrection
- In the fortieth day prayer, we rejoice in the promise of ascension.



No Salvation Outside the Church

- Not only a meeting place
 - The ladder to heaven, the gate of heaven, the heaven on earth, the meeting with Christ
 - The angels and saints are the ark of salvation from the flood of the sea of the fleeting world.
- The Orthodox is:
 - born in the church,
 - Eats, grows in the church,
 - repents in the church,
 - enjoys fellowship in the church
 - gets married in the church,
 - receives healing from the church
 - leaves the church for eternity.



No Salvation Outside the Church

- *“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9)*
- Those who preach outside the church...
 - We do not know a “Christ” outside
 - Church does not know a head without a body
 - We do not understand a true relationship with Christ without true membership in his body through repentance, sacraments, and upright faith, and continuous discipleship
 - *“If the Church is not your mother, God could not be your father.”*



To be Orthodox...

- The Orthodox Christian has Orthodox Dogma
 - Orthodox Faith
 - Core of Dogma
 - Straight, upright, ancient, kept for thousands of years
 - Orthodox Sacraments
 - Foundations of Dogma
 - Orthodox Rites
 - Expression of Dogma
 - Orthodox Church
 - Keeper of Dogma
 - No Salvation Outside the Church!

