

# **SAINT ANDREW SERVICE BOOK**

The Administration of the Sacraments  
and Other Rites and Ceremonies  
According to the Western Rite Usage  
of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America



Second Print Edition, 1996

Electronic On-line, 1999

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AUXILIARY  
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The First Edition of the St. Andrew Service Book was approved for use by the Western Rite Congregations of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in 1989. This, the Second Edition, improved in format and expanded in content, will be welcomed by the clergy and laity of our archdiocese who worship in a tradition as ancient as the Eastern.

We take this opportunity to commend and sincerely thank Archpriest Michael Keiser, the original compiler of the service book, as well as the Board of the Orthodox Christian Press, Archimandrite Michael Trigg, Fr. John Downing, and especially Mr. Karl Steinhoff, for their many hours of dedicated labor in preparing the revised edition.

We pray that the attentive use of these authorized liturgies and other rites and ceremonies by the Western rite clergy and laity of our beloved Archdiocese will be the cause of a spiritual and liturgical renewal within our church in North America.

+ Metropolitan PHILIP  
Primate  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America

Published by  
the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



Typography prepared for publication by  
**Orthodox Christian Press**  
**3333 Workman Mill Road**  
**Whittier, CA 90601**

This publication was typeset using Quark XPress™ v3.31, on a  
Macintosh Quadra computer.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 96 97 98 99

First printing, January 1996. Electronic text 1999 <http://whittier.stmichael.org/ocp>

\*... the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch! ACTS 11:26

# *The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony*

- *The priest may address those gathered:*

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this man and this woman in holy Matrimony, which is an honourable estate, instituted by God, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence and the first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of Saint Paul to be honorable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly, or lightly, but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace.

*The priest shall ask the bridegroom:*

*(Name)*, wilt thou take *(Name)*, here present, for thy lawful wife, according to the rite of our holy Mother, the Church?

*The bridegroom shall answer:*        I will.

*The priest shall ask the bride:*

*(Name)*, wilt thou take *(Name)*, here present, for thy lawful husband, according to the rite of our holy Mother, the Church?

*The bride shall answer:*                I will.

- *The bride is given away by her father or by another. The bridegroom shall receive her to keep her in the faith of God and his own, and shall hold her right hand in his right hand. Taught by the priest, he shall plight his troth in this manner, saying:*

I, *(Name)*, take thee, *(Name)*, to my wedded wife, to have, and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, and thereto I plight thee my troth.

- *Then withdrawing her hand, and taking his right hand in hers, and taught by the priest, the bride shall plight her troth in this manner, saying:*

I, *(Name)*, take thee, *(Name)*, to my wedded husband, to have, and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, and thereto I plight thee my troth.

- *Having both thus plighted their troth, the bride and bridegroom shall join hands. The priest, wrapping his stole around their hands, shall say:*

I join thee in Holy Matrimony. In the Name of the Father, (+) and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

- *The priest now sprinkles the couple with holy water.*

### *Blessing of the Ring(s)*

P. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.  
 R. Who hath made heaven and earth.  
 P. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
 R. And let my cry come unto Thee.  
 P. The Lord be with you.  
 R. And with thy spirit.  
 P. Let us pray.

- *For a single ring ceremony:*

**B**LESS, O Lord, this ring, which we bless in Thy name, that she who shall wear it, keeping true faith unto her husband, may abide in Thy peace and according to Thy will, and ever live in mutual love. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

- *For a double ring ceremony:*

**B**LESS, O Lord, these rings, which we bless in Thy name, that they who wear them may ever keep true faith with each other, and so, abiding in Thy peace and in obedience to Thy will, may live together in love unchanging. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *The priest sprinkles the ring(s) with holy water in the form of a cross.*
- *The bridegroom then takes the ring to be given to the bride, saying:*

With this ring I thee wed: with my body I thee honor and all my worldly goods I share.

- *The bridegroom places the ring on the thumb of the bride's left hand, saying*

In the Name of the Father,

- *The ring is moved to the index finger.*

and of the Son,

- *The ring is moved to the middle finger.*

and of the Holy Spirit.

- *The ring is placed on the bride's ring finger.*

*Amen.*

- *For a double ring ceremony, the bride now takes the ring to be given to the bridegroom and repeats the same.*

- *The priest then adds:*

- P. Confirm that, O God, which thou hast wrought in us.
- R. For thy temple's sake at Jerusalem. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**O**UR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- P. Save Thy servants.
- R. Who put their trust in Thee, my God.
- P. Send them help, O Lord, from the sanctuary.
- R. And strengthen them out of Zion.
- P. Be unto them, O Lord, a tower of strength.
- R. From the face of the enemy.
- P. O Lord, hear my prayer.
- R. And let my cry come unto Thee.
- P. The Lord be with you.
- R. And with thy spirit.
- P. Let us pray.

*Collect*

**L**OOK, O Lord, we beseech Thee, upon these Thy servants; and graciously assist this Thine institution, whereby Thou hast ordained the propagation of mankind, that they who are joined together by Thine authority may, by Thy assistance, be preserved. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

*Nuptial Blessing*

- *The priest, turning toward the newly-married persons, may read the following*

*Psalm 128*

Blessed are all they that fear the Lord, \* and walk in His ways.

For thou shalt eat the labours of thine hands: \* O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.

Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine \* upon the walls of thine house;

Thy children like the olive branches \* round about thy table.

Lo, thus shall the man be blessed \* that feareth the Lord.

The Lord from out of Zion shall so bless thee, \* that thou shalt see Jerusalem in prosperity all thy life long;

Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children, \* and peace upon Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

- P. O Lord, hear my prayer.
- R. And let my cry come unto Thee.
- P. The Lord be with you.
- R. And with thy spirit.
- P. Let us pray.

**B**LESS, O Lord, and look from heaven upon this union; and as Thou didst send Thy holy Angel Raphael to bring peace to Tobias and Sarah, the daughter of Raguel, so vouchsafe, O Lord, to send Thy blessing upon these two persons, that they may abide in Thy benediction, continue in Thy will, and live in Thy love. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

- *Then, raising his hands and extending them over their heads, the priest shall say:*

**T**HE Lord God Almighty bless you, and fulfill His benediction upon you, and may you see your children's children even unto the third and fourth generation, and attain unto the old age which you desire. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

- *If the Divine Liturgy is to be celebrated, it shall begin here. Otherwise, the service shall continue with the following prayers and readings:*

*Ps. 67.* God be merciful unto them, and bless them, and show them the light of Thy countenance, and be merciful unto them.

*Ps. 128.* Blessed are all they that fear the Lord, and walk in His ways.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

- *The priest shall introduce the Epistle, taken from Ephesians 5:20-33:*

A reading from the Epistle of blessed Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians:

**G**IVE thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church; And He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore, as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not

having spot nor wrinkle nor any blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no one ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord loveth the Church. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; But I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself, and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

*Ps. 128.* Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine upon the walls of thy house. Thy children like the olive branches round about thy table. *Alleluia.*

*Ps. 20.* The Lord send you help from the sanctuar,: and strengthen you out of Sion. *Alleluia.*

*Ps. 134.* The Lord that made heaven and earth: give thee blessing out of Sion! *Alleluia.*

- *Then shall the priest read the Gospel, taken from Matthew 19:3-6:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

**A**T that time, the Pharisees came unto Jesus, tempting Him, and saying unto Him: Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And He answered and said unto them: Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh?" Wherefore they are no more twain but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let man not put asunder.

- *The following prayer may be omitted at the discretion of the priest and the couple to be married:*

**O** MERCIFUL Lord, and heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased, we beseech Thee, assist with Thy blessing this couple, that they may both be fruitful in procreation of children, and also live together so long in godly love and honesty, that they may see their children Christianly and virtuously brought up, to Thy praise and honor. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

**O** GOD, who by Thy mighty power hast made all things of nothing; who also, after other things set in order, didst appoint that out of man, created after thine own image and similitude, woman should take her beginning; and, knitting them together, didst teach that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom Thou by Matrimony hast made one; O God, who has consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity between Christ and His Church, look mercifully upon these Thy servants, that both this man may love his wife, according to Thy Word, as Christ did love His spouse the Church, who gave Himself for it, loving and cherishing it even as His own flesh, and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, faithful and obedient to her husband; and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit Thy everlasting kingdom. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, we beseech Thee, let Thy gracious favor accompany the ordinance of Thy love, that those whom Thou hast joined together in holy wedlock, by Thy protection may live in lasting peace. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who at the beginning did create our first parents, Adam and Eve, and did sanctify and join them together in marriage, pour upon you the riches of His grace, sanctify and bless you, that ye may please Him both in body and soul, and live together in holy love unto your lives' end. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

**O** GOD of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, bless these Thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that whatsoever in Thy holy Word they shall profitably learn, they may indeed fulfill the same. Look, O Lord, mercifully upon them from heaven, and bless them. And as Thou didst send Thy blessing upon Abraham and Sarah, to their great comfort, so vouchsafe to send Thy blessing upon these Thy servants; that they, obeying Thy will, and always being in safety under Thy protection, may abide in Thy love unto their lives' end. Through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*