

# **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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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

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

# *The Order for Holy Baptism*

- *The following requisites shall be prepared when the Sacrament of Baptism is to be performed:*
  - *The vessels containing Oil of Catechumens, Sacred Chrism, and the Holy Communion;*
  - *A vessel containing salt to be blessed, or some already blessed salt;*
  - *Cotton, or similar material, to be used for wiping the parts anointed;*
  - *If possible, a white and a purple stole, but at least one or the other;*
  - *Pieces of bread and lemon, and a suitable basin, to be used for washing the hands of the priest after Baptism and Confirmation;*
  - *A white mantle or small piece of white linen to be placed on the candidate's head, or an appropriate white Christening garment supplied by the sponsors; and*
  - *A wax candle or taper to be given, lighted, to the baptized.*
- *The ritual and baptismal register shall be in readiness.*
- *All having been prepared, the priest washes his hands, puts on a surplice and purple stole, and proceeds to the administration of the Sacrament. So prepared, the priest goes to the threshold of the church, outside of which the candidate and sponsors are waiting. All having been provided for as above, with the one to be baptized, if an infant, resting on the right arm of the sponsor, the priest begins the service in the following manner: (If there be more than one candidate, the prayers are said in the plural as appropriate, but the questions shall be asked of each one separately.)*

## *At the Doors of the Church*

- *The priest, having ascertained the name(s), questions the candidate: (If a child, the sponsors will answer.)*
  - P. *(Name), what dost thou ask of the Church of God?*
  - R. *Faith.*
  - P. *What doth Faith bring to thee?*
  - R. *Life everlasting.*

P. If thou then desire to enter into life, keep the commandments. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

- *Then he blows three times gently into the face of each candidate, and says once (separately to each):*

Go out of *him* thou unclean spirit, and give place unto the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

- *Then he makes with his thumb the sign of the Cross on the forehead and on the breast of the candidate, saying:*

Receive the sign of the Cross, both upon thy forehead (+) and also on thy heart (+); Take unto thee the faith of the heavenly precepts; and be thou such in thy conversation, that thou mayest now be in the temple of God.

Let us pray.

**W**E beseech Thee, O Lord, graciously hear our prayers, and keep with Thy perpetual power this Thine Elect, (*Name*), who hath been signed with the sign of the Cross in the Lord: that *he*, observing the rudiments of the greatness of Thy glory, may, by keeping Thy commandments, be worthy to attain unto the glory of regeneration. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

- *Then he places his hand upon the head of the candidate, after which, holding his hand extended, he says:*

Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, vouchsafe to look upon this Thy servant (*Name*), whom Thou hast been pleased to call to the rudiments of the faith; Drive far from *him* all blindness of heart; Break all the snares of Satan, wherewith *he* hath been bound; Open to *him*, O Lord, the gate of Thy mercy, that, being filled with the sign of Thy wisdom, *he* may be

free from all evil desires, and in the sweet savour of Thy commandments may joyfully serve Thee in Thy Church, and prosper from day to day. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

- *Then the priest blesses salt which, once blessed, may serve at other times for the same use.*

### *Blessing of the Salt*

**I** EXORCISE thee, O creature of salt, in the Name of God the Father (+) Almighty, and in the charity of our Lord Jesus (+) Christ, and in the power of the Holy (+) Ghost. I exorcise thee through God (+) the living, through God (+) the true, through God (+) the holy, through God (+) who created thee for the protection of mankind, and commanded thee to be consecrated through His servants for the people that should come to believe; that in the Name of the Holy Trinity thou be made a saving Sacrament to put to flight the enemy. Therefore we pray Thee, O Lord our God, that sanctifying thou wouldest sanctify (+), and blessing thou wouldest bless (+) this creature of salt, that it be made to all who receive it perfect healing, abiding in their members in the Name of the same, our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen*.

- *Then he puts a little of the blessed salt into the mouth of the candidate, saying:*

(*Name*), receive the salt of wisdom; may it avail to thee for mercy unto life eternal. *Amen*.

- P. Peace be with thee.  
R. And with thy spirit.  
P. Let us pray.

**O** GOD of our fathers, O God the author of all truth, we humbly entreat Thee, that Thou wouldest vouchsafe mercifully to look upon this Thy servant (*Name*), and that Thou wouldest suffer *him* no longer to hunger, now tasting this first relish of salt, to the end that, being fulfilled with heavenly food, *he* may ever be fervent in spirit, rejoicing in hope, ever serving Thy Name. Lead *him*, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to the washing of the new birth, that *he* may with Thy faithful be worthy to attain unto the eternal reward of Thy promises. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**I** EXORCISE thee, unclean spirit, in the Name of the Father (+), and of the Son (+), and of the Holy (+) Ghost, that thou go out, and depart from this servant of God (*Name*). For He Himself commands thee, accursed and damned one, who walked with His feet upon the sea, and stretched forth His right hand to Peter as he sank.

Therefore, accursed devil, acknowledge thy sentence, and give honor to God the living and the true, give honor to Jesus Christ His Son, and to the Holy Ghost, and depart from this servant of God (*Name*), forasmuch as our God and Lord Jesus Christ hath vouchsafed to call *him* to His holy grace and benediction, and to the font of Baptism.

- *Here he signs the candidate on the forehead, saying:*

And this sign of the Holy (+) Cross, which we set upon *his* brow, do thou, accursed devil, never dare to violate. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

- *Then he lays his hand upon the head of the candidate, and afterwards holding it extended, says:*

Let us pray.

**I** ENTREAT Thy eternal and most just mercy, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, author of light and truth, upon this servant of God (*Name*), that Thou wouldest vouchsafe to enlighten *him* with the light of Thine understanding: cleanse *him* and sanctify *him*: give *him* true knowledge, that being made worthy of the grace of Thy Baptism, *he* may hold firm hope, right counsel and holy doctrine. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *In the Church*

- *Then the priest places the end of his stole which hangs from his left shoulder on the first candidate, and leads (him), followed by the others, into the Church, saying to each:*

(*Name*), enter into the temple of God, that thou mayest have part with Christ unto life eternal. *Amen.*

- *When they are come into the Church, the priest, going towards the font, says, together with the sponsors, in a loud voice:*

**I** BELIEVE in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God; begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father; who, with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets; And I believe One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, (+) and the Life of the world to come. *Amen.*

**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. *Amen.*

- *And then, before he enters the baptistry, with his back turned to it, he says:*

**I**EXORCISE thee, every unclean spirit, in the Name of God the Father (+) Almighty, and in the Name of Jesus (+) Christ the Son, our Lord and Judge, and in the power of the Holy (+) Ghost, that thou depart from this creature of God (*Name*), which our Lord hath vouchsafed to call unto His holy temple, that *he* may become the temple of the living God, and that the Holy Spirit may dwell therein. Through the same Christ, our Lord, who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

- *Then the priest, with his thumb, touches the ears and nostrils of the candidate; and while touching his right and left ears, he says:*

EPHPHATHA, that is, Be opened.

- *Then he touches the nostrils, saying:*

For a savour of sweetness. But thou, devil, flee away: for the judgement of God draweth nigh.

- *Then he questions the person to be baptized, by name, saying:*

P. (*Name*), dost thou renounce Satan?

R. I do renounce him.

P. And all his works?

R. I do renounce them.

P. And all his pomps?

R. I do renounce them.

- 
- *The priest now blesses the Oil of Catechumens, which may be reserved for the same purpose on other occasions, without being re-blessed.*

### *Blessing of the Oil of Catechumens*

#### *Exorcism*

**I**EXORCISE thee, O creature of Oil, in the Name of God the Father (+) Almighty, and in the Name of Jesus (+) Christ, and of the Holy (+) Ghost, that by this invocation of the undivided Trinity and by the power of the one Godhead, all the most wicked powers of the enemy, all the inveterate malice of the devil, every violent assault, every disorderly and dark illusion may be rooted out, and chased away, and dispelled from thee: that hallowed by divine mysteries, thou mayest be for the adoption both of the flesh and the spirit of those who shall be anointed with thee, for the forgiveness of all sins: that their bodies may be sanctified for receiving all spiritual grace. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, Who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

P. Let us pray.

**O** GOD, the rewarder of all spiritual growth and progress, Who by the power of the Holy Ghost dost strengthen the first beginnings of feeble minds, deign, Lord, we beseech Thee, to send down Thy blessing (+)

upon this Oil, and grant that all who approach the laver of regeneration, may, through the unction of this Thy creature, be cleansed in mind and body; that if pollution of their spiritual enemies have adhered to them, it may depart at the touch of this hallowed Oil; let there be no place for the wickedness of spirits, no occasion for the apostate angels, no power of concealment left to the snares of sin; but to Thy servants, who come to the Faith, and are to be cleansed by the operation of Thy Holy Spirit, let the preparation of this unction be serviceable for that salvation, which they are to gain when born by heavenly generation in the Sacrament of Baptism. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

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- *Then the priest dips his thumb in the Oil of Catechumens, and anoints the candidate on the breast, and between the shoulders in the form of a cross, saying once:*

I anoint (+) thee with the Oil of salvation in Christ (+) Jesus our Lord, that thou mayest have eternal life. *Amen.*

- *Then, with cotton, wool, or the like, he wipes his thumb and the places anointed. Standing in the same place, he lays aside the violet stole, and takes a stole of white color. Then he enters the baptistry, which the sponsors also enter, with the candidate. The priest, at the font, questions the person to be baptized by name:*

P. *(Name)*, dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

R. I do believe.

P. Dost thou believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, who was born into this world, and who suffered for us?

R. I do believe.

P. Dost thou also believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the

forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

R. I do believe.

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### *The Blessing of the Water*

- *If the water has not already been blessed, the priest does so now, saying:*

**I** EXORCISE thee, O creature of water, by the living (+) God, by the true (+) God, by the holy (+) God, who in the beginning, through His word, divided thee from the dry land; whose Spirit moved upon thee, who commanded thee to flow from paradise, *(Here he divides the water with his hand, and then scatters it, outside the rim of the font, towards the four quarters of the world)* and commanded thee to water the whole earth with thy four rivers. Who in the desert by wood bestowed upon thee sweetness when thou wast bitter, that men might drink who brought thee forth from the rock, that He might refresh the people, wearied with thirst, whom He had delivered out of Egypt. I exorcise thee through Jesus Christ, by His only Son, our Lord: who in Cana of Galilee by a wondrous miracle did change thee through His power into wine: who walked upon thee with His feet, and was baptized in thee by John in the Jordan. Who brought thee forth together with Blood from His side: and commanded His disciples, that they should baptize in thee them that believe, saying: Go ye, teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; that thou mayest be made holy water, blessed water, water that washeth away stains and cleanseth sins. I command thee therefore, every unclean spirit, every phantom, every lie, be rooted out, and flee away from this creature of water; that to them who shall be baptized therein, it may become a font of water springing up unto life eternal, regenerating them unto God the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, in the

Name of the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall come to judge the living and the dead, and the world by fire. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

**O** LORD, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God, who dost sanctify spiritual waters, we humbly entreat Thee: that Thou wouldest vouchsafe to look upon this ministry of our humble service, and to send forth upon these waters, made ready for the washing and purifying of men, the Angel of holiness; to the end that, the sins of their former life being washed, and their guilt cleansed, they being regenerate may be worthy to be made a spotless habitation for the Holy Spirit. Through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who livest and reignest in the unity of the same Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

- *Then, he breathes thrice into the water, in three directions: then he puts incense in the thurible, and, having blessed it, censes the font, with three simple swings. Next, pouring some of the Oil of Catechumens into the water in the form of a cross, he says in a loud voice:*

May this font be sanctified and made fruitful by the Oil of Salvation, for such as shall be born again therefrom unto life eternal, in the Name of the Father (+), and of the Son (+), and of the Holy (+) Ghost. *Amen.*

- *Then in the same manner, he pours in some of the Chrism, saying:*

May this inpouring of the Chrism of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, be wrought in the Name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

- *Next he takes both phials of the said holy Oil and Chrism, and pours in some of both together in the form of a cross, saying:*

May this commingling of the Chrism of sanctification, and of the Oil of Unction, and of the Water of Baptism be likewise wrought in the Name of the Father (+), and

of the Son (+), and of the Holy (+) Ghost. *Amen.*

- *Then, setting down the phials, with his right hand he mingles the holy Oil and the infused Chrism with the water, and scatters it over the whole font. Then he wipes his hand with crumbs of bread.*

- 
- *Then, naming the person to be baptized, the priest says:*

P. *(Name)*, wilt thou be baptized?

R. I will.

- *It is the ancient historic practice of the Orthodox Church that baptism shall be performed by three-fold immersion.*
- *The priest takes the candidate, and baptizes (him) with a three-fold immersion, at the same time clearly and distinctly pronouncing the form once only, saying:*

*(Name)*, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### *The Order of Confirmation (Chrismation)*

- *Having washed his hands, the priest stands facing the candidate and sponsors, and says:*

May the Holy Ghost come upon you, and may the power of the Most High preserve you from sins. *Amen.*

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.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate this Thy servant by water and the Holy Ghost, and hast given unto *him* the remission of all *his* sins, send forth upon *him* Thy sevenfold Spirit, the Holy Paraclete, from heaven. *Amen.*

P. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding.  
R. Amen.  
P. The Spirit of counsel and fortitude.  
R. Amen.  
P. The Spirit of knowledge and godliness.  
R. Amen.

Replenish *him* with the Spirit of Thy fear, and sign *him* with the sign of the Cross (+) of Christ, in Thy mercy unto life eternal. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

- *The priest, having dipped the end of his right thumb in Chrism, rests his hand on the forehead of the candidate, and makes the sign of the Cross with his thumb, saying:*

(*Name*), I sign thee with the sign of (+) the Cross, and I confirm thee with the Chrism of Salvation: The Seal of the gift of the Holy Ghost. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, (+) and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

- *Then the priest strikes the candidate gently on the cheek saying:*  
Peace be with thee.
- *The priest wipes the forehead of the candidate with cotton and his own hands with bread crumbs, and washes them over a basin. While he is washing his hands, the following is sung or read by the ministers, or by the priest:*

Confirm, O Lord, what Thou hast wrought in us, from Thy holy temple which was in Jerusalem.

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.*

Confirm, O Lord, what Thou hast wrought in us, from Thy holy temple which was in Jerusalem.

P. Show us Thy mercy, O Lord.  
R. And grant us Thy salvation.  
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.

**O** GOD, who didst give to Thine Apostles the Holy Spirit, and didst will that by them and their successors He should be delivered to the rest of the faithful; look mercifully on the service of our humility; and grant that the heart of *him* whose forehead we have anointed with the sacred Chrism, and signed with the sign of the Holy Cross, may, by the same Holy Spirit descending upon *him* and vouchsafing to dwell therein, be made the temple of His glory, who, with the Father and the same Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, God, world without end. *Amen.*

Behold, thus shall every man be blessed that feareth the Lord.

- *The priest places on the head of the candidate either a small white Chrism, or undergarment, or some white substitute and says:*

Receive this white garment, and see thou carry it without stain before the judgement-seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, that thou mayest have eternal life. *Amen.*

- *He then gives to the candidate, or to a sponsor, a lighted taper, saying:*

Receive this burning light, and keep thy baptism so as to be without blame; keep the commandments of God, that, when the Lord shall come to the nuptials, thou mayest meet him in the company of all the Saints in the heavenly court, and have eternal life, and live for ever and ever. *Amen.*

- *The priest, holding the Blessed Sacrament, says:*

Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world.

- *With the priest, the people respond:*

Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed. *(Three times)*

- *The priest administers Holy Communion, saying:*

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given and shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. *Amen.*

Let us pray.

**P**OUR forth on us, O Lord, the spirit of Thy love; that those whom Thou hast filled with the Paschal Sacrament, may, by Thy goodness, live in perfect concord. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the self same Holy Spirit, God, to ages of ages. *Amen.*

- *The priest says:*

*(Name), go in peace, and the Lord be with thee. Amen.*

- *Making the sign of the Cross over the person, he says:*

May the Lord bless (+) you out of Sion, that you may see the good things of Jerusalem all the days of your life, and have life everlasting. *Amen.*

- *When Baptism is administered on the Vigils of Easter or Pentecost, after the solemn blessing of the font, all those portions of the above office which duplicate that rite are to be omitted.*

- *The rite described above may be used for the Baptism of any number at one time, the priest being careful to perform the ceremonies for, and to ask the questions of, each individual, and to read the prayers in the plural.*

- *When receiving Catechumens by Chrismation without baptism, begin with Confirmation, on the page following*

## *Presentation of a Convert*

*(Previously Baptized)*

### *The Nicene Creed*

**I** BELIEVE in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God; begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father; who, with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets; And I believe One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, (+) and the Life of the world to come. *Amen.*

P. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.

P. O Lord, hear our prayer.

R. O Lord, let our cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray.

**O**UR Lord and God Jesus Christ committed unto His Apostles the keys of the kingdom of heaven and bestowed upon them full power through His grace both to bind and to loose a man from his sins upon earth; May the same, through His unspeakable mercy, pardon, and absolve thee, and do unite thee unto the fellowship of the faithful, and unto the body of Christ's Church; and do communicate thee with the Divine Sacraments of the Church; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

- *Those who are to be Chrismated kneel, with hands joined, before the priest, who, standing with hands joined, begins The Order for Chrismation as it appears on page 159.*

## ***The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony***

