



Denominations | Orthodoxy

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What do they believe about the sacraments?

Holy Orders

- Major Orders

- Bishop, Priest, Deacon

- Only bishops can ordain by laying on of hands, and the ordination of a bishop must be done by multiple bishops.
 - Priests are divided into “white” (married clergy) and “black” (single, monastic). Ordinands (including deacons) must decide which path they are going to take before ordination, as marriage after ordination to a Major Order is forbidden.
 - While the office deacon is often utilized as a stepping-stone to the priesthood, it is in principle a permanent position, and there is no expectation of advancement.

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What do they believe about the sacraments?

Minor Orders

- Sub-deacon, reader
 - Sub-deacons are assistants who, candidly, do what could be described as liturgical “grunt work.”
 - Readers read the Scripture during the Liturgy
- Holy Orders are conferred in conjunction with tonsure.

Marriage/Matrimony

- Office of Betrothal – blessing and exchange of rings
- Office of Crowning – signifies the grace the couple receives from the Holy Spirit as they start their new family

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What do they believe about the sacraments?

- The Orthodox have a more lenient view on divorce than Catholics, though always considering it a tragedy.
- Unlike Roman Catholics, the Orthodox do not generally oppose birth control.

Anointing of the Sick

- Anointing of the sick is done with chrism but does not guarantee any physical healing as though the ointment had magical powers. In this sense, Orthodox anointing is very similar to a Protestant understanding of Jas. 5:14-15.

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Church Calendar and Liturgy

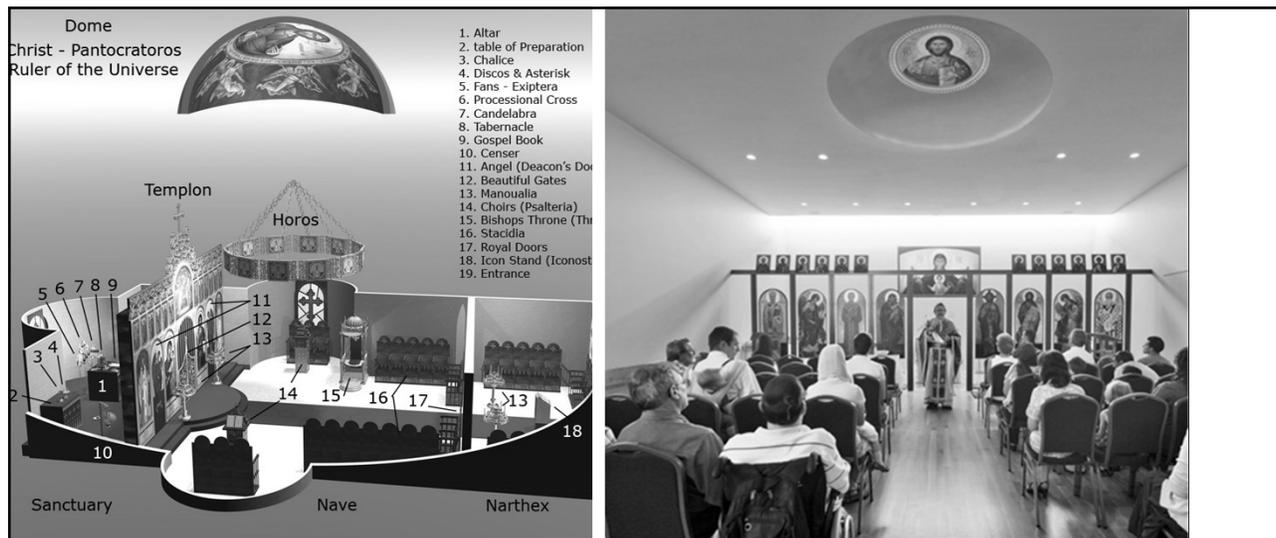
- Up until the end of World War I, all Orthodox churches followed the same Old Style/Julian church calendar on which, for example, Christmas is celebrated 13 days after it is celebrated in the West (Jan. 7th) where the New Style/Gregorian calendar is followed by both Protestants and Catholics.
- The Orthodox liturgical year is so detailed and expansive that it takes thousands of pages to outline, including all the great Feasts and Fasts of the Orthodox Church.
- Orthodox do not use instruments (save some Greek Orthodox who use organs/harmoniums) and chant their services. Additionally, unlike in Roman Catholic churches, there is generally not a daily liturgy, which is reserved (with exceptions) for Sundays and feasts.

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Church Calendar and Liturgy

- Orthodox services are known for their length, extensive (if not exclusive) standing, and frequently being conducted in the native tongue of the church.
- Orthodox churches themselves generally have a wide, open space in the middle covered by a dome, in contrast to elongated naves and other characteristics of Gothic architecture are not part of Eastern architecture.

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Icons

- For the Orthodox, icons are not designed merely to arouse particular emotions; rather, they are understood to be revelation—one of the means by which the faithful receive a vision of the spiritual world, which lies only behind a “thin” veil.
 - Icons are venerated and serve as mediators between the Orthodox and those to whom they pray (e.g., saints, angels, Mary, Jesus).
 - Louth: “The image or icon is part of a whole approach to theology, an approach that sees theology as illuminating the journey of the Christian into God, rather than some speculative enterprise.”
- Although statues are perfectly acceptable according to Orthodox dogma, they are rare finds in Orthodox churches for historical/culture reasons (including Muslim conquest in the East).

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Evaluation

- The positive
- Two primary concerns
 - Theosis—focusing on the process, downplaying the foundation
 - Mystical traditionalism

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