

Preparation of Holy Chrism

The following is an account from 2017 on how Holy Chrism was “confected” that year at St. Tikhon’s Monastery.

As Holy Week began, many clergy from our seminary community participated an ancient ritual: the preparation of Holy Chrism. They gathered at Saint Tikhon’s Monastery, in South Canaan, PA, with other priests and deacons, and bishops, to confect the specially blended oil used in the Rite of Chrismation in Orthodox Churches.

The Rite of Consecration of Holy Chrism began on Holy Monday morning, as His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, primate of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at St. Vladimir’s Seminary, sanctified water to bless the ingredients that would be used in making the chrism. Then, some attending clergy poured the blessed exotic spices and oil into an enormous stainless-steel container and continuously stirred the ingredients as they boiled, while other clergy stood nearby, reading the Gospels.

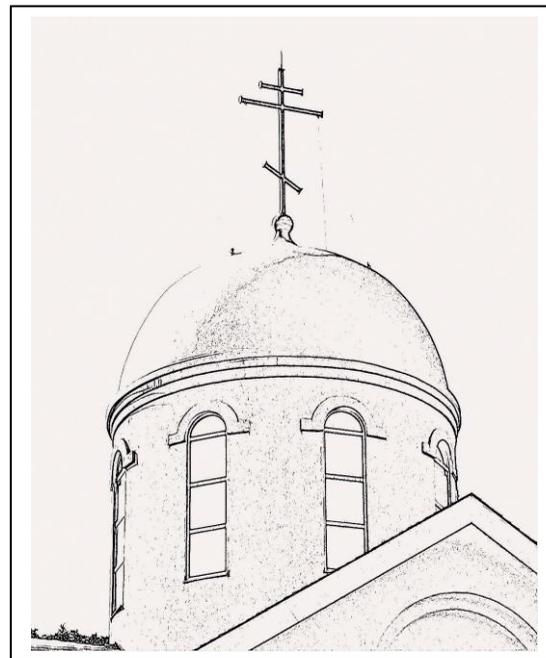
The fragrant blend of olive oil, white wine, styrax, benzoin, rose oil, basil, balsam, Venetian turpentine, and galangal; aromatic incenses extracted in oil; oils of bergamot, clove, marjoram, thyme and sandalwood; and extracts of ginger root, calamus root, nutmeg, and orris root will continue to simmer until Holy Thursday. During that entire period, in 2-hour shifts day and night, a multitude of clergy from the monastery and surrounding area will take turns continuously stirring the mixture and reading the Gospels.

When the Holy Chrism is ready, it will be poured into bottles and distributed to the 700 parishes of the OCA—from Canada to the United States to Mexico. Parish priests will use the chrism during the Rite of Chrismation to anoint a person at the pronouncement of the words, “the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit”—a practice that some historians trace to the almost immediate post-apostolic period.

The fifth-century Patriarch, Cyril of Jerusalem details how this special oil was “symbolically applied to the forehead, and the other organs of sense” during Chrismation, and specifies that the “ears, nostrils, and breast were each to be anointed.” St. Cyril insisted that being “anointed with the holy anointing oil of God” was the sign of a Christian, a physical representation of having the gift of the Holy Spirit. He notes: “Having been counted worthy of this Holy Chrism, you are called Christians, verifying the name also by your new birth. For before you were deemed worthy of this grace, you had properly no right to this title, but were advancing on your way towards being Christians.”(On the Mysteries 3.5)

Preparing chrism is also a unique privilege of autocephalous (self-ruled) Orthodox Churches, which connects them historically to their Mother Churches, since every batch of new chrism contains drops from an earlier batch of chrism. (The OCA’s Archives boasts a lead container that held chrism brought from Russia in 1900, and the Russian Church originally received its chrism from its Mother Church, Constantinople.) Every drop of chrism powerfully testifies to church unity, and to the freely given gift by God of the Holy Spirit.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

September 27, 2020

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 7. Martyrs Callistratus and his company (49 Martyrs—ca. 304). Ven. Savvatii (Sabbatius), Wonderworker of Solovétsky Monastery (1435). Apostles Mark, Aristarchus, and Zenas, of the Seventy (1st c.). Martyr Epicharis of Rome (3rd c.). Ven. Ignatius, Abbot in Asia Minor (963-975).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday @ 6pm Great Vespers (Protection)

Thursday @ 9am Divine Liturgy (Protection)

Saturday @ 6pm Great Vespers

Sunday @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36



*Protection of the
Most-holy Theotokos*

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. Brochures are located by the bulletin board in the parish hall or at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.

Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Margaret Makara, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak (under hospice care), Pauline Barnowsky, and Catherine Ratushuk.**

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Tuesday – Paul Berger

Friday – Charlie Bass

Saturday – Emily Mari

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Thursday – Richard & Gail Hascha
(#32)

Annunciations

TODAY – Congratulations to **Jessica Mazan** who will be chrismated and received into the Orthodox Church today.

THIS TUESDAY – We will continue the **Adult Education** program on the **Divine Liturgy**. All **parishioners and inquirers** are invited to attend at 7pm via Zoom.

THIS WEDNESDAY – **Great Vespers** for the **Feast of the Protection of the Most-holy Theotokos** will be served at 6pm.

THIS WEDNESDAY – **Dr. Al Rossi** will present the last of four on-line classes based on his new book, “**All is Well**”. This is a joint presentation being made to seven parishes. The **Zoom link** for these sessions has been sent to all parishioners. Please contact Father Gary if more information is desired.

THIS THURSDAY – **Divine Liturgy** will be served at 9am for the Feast of the Protection of the Most-holy Theotokos.

We will continue to allow a maximum of **25% of our building's capacity** per service in the Church. For **Great Vespers and weekday Divine Liturgy**, parishioners are being encouraged to attend by signing up on a first-come-first-served basis. For **Sunday Divine Liturgy**, the process differs by being invitation only, with invitations being made by a rotation through the parish roster. Our parishioners' patience is appreciated as we try to navigate through these processes.

Stewardship Donations may be brought to the church or mailed to the church address: 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. **On-line donations** are possible by visiting our website for a link. Many thanks for continuing to support your parish in these challenging times.

Confessions continue to be offered either by phone or in person (with proper social distancing). Please **contact Father Gary** to make an appointment for the Sacrament of Confession.

Grocery Gift Cards are available for purchase. Please contact Matushka Mary by email (matmaryb@gmail.com) or by phone at (848) 333-7075 to make arrangements.

Parish Calendars for October have been sent by email to parishioners. The calendar is also available on our parish website.

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news and directives by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.orthodoxbrick.org.