

Sacraments

Understanding sacraments

What is the meaning of sacraments

How do sacraments work

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What are the sacraments

Baptism –

The first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship.
The Eastern Orthodox include Confirmation.

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Eucharist (or Communion) –

The elements of communion are changed into Jesus' body and blood to give spiritual nourishment.

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Reconciliation (or Penance) –

Has three elements: conversion, confession and celebration.

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Confirmation/Chrismation –

An initiation into the Church. In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the confirmand is anointed with oil as a sign of proffering the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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Marriage –

A public sign that one gives oneself totally to this other person.
It is also a public statement about God: the loving union of husband and wife speaks of family values and also God's values.

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Holy Orders –

The priest being ordained vows to lead other Catholics by bringing them the sacraments (especially the Eucharist), by proclaiming the Gospel, and by providing other means to holiness.

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Anointing of the Sick (Last Rites) –

A ritual of healing appropriate not only for physical but also for mental and spiritual sickness.

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What are different views on communion

There are different views on what happens to the communion elements:

transubstantiation

bread and wine become literal flesh and blood

consubstantiation

bread and wine become spiritual flesh and blood

memorial

the elements are to remind us Jesus' sacrifice for us

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What are different views on communion

There are different views on who can take communion:

open communion

any Christians present may participate

closed communion

only members of local congregation or denomination may participate

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What are different views on baptism?

There are different views on who may be baptized:

Adults only (Believer baptism)

only people old enough to confess their faith may be baptized

Infants

infants of believers are baptized as acknowledgement of the infant as a new member in the Church community and in hope that they will make a commitment in the future

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What are different views on baptism?

There are different views on what happens during baptism

baptism overcomes original sin,
frees the baptized from powers of darkness,
baptism is sign,
public confession, of a believer's faith

Baptism in the Holy Spirit –

When someone is saved, the Holy Spirit overcomes the person
and causes that person to speak “in tongues”

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What are different views on baptism?

There are different views of how many times the recipient is immersed:

Once there are differences in whether the words to use are

“in the name of Jesus” or

“in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit),

Three times

once for each of the Godhead: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

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What are different views on baptism?

There are different views on how the baptism is performed:

Immersion

recipient is completely immersed in water

Pouring

water is poured on the head of the recipient)

Sprinkling

water is sprinkled on the head of the recipient