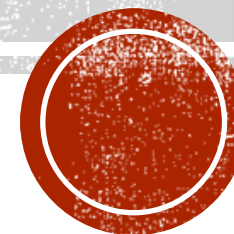


# SACRED VESSELS & RITUAL OF THE OFFERTORY



Servants Prep Class

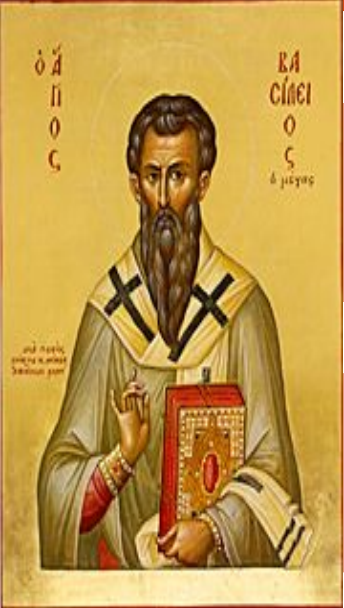
# OVERVIEW

- Quick overview of the Coptic Liturgies
- Why is it so important to understand the liturgy?
  - And guide our youth to *living* the liturgy rather than *attending* the liturgy.
- Sacred Vessels
- Ritual of the Offertory



# Today's Liturgies

## St. Basil



We Speak to  
God the Father  
also

“O God the  
Great, the  
Eternal...”

## St. Gregory



We Speak to God  
the Son

“O You, THE  
BEING, who  
was...”

## St. Cyril



We speak to God  
the Father

“O author of life  
and King of the  
ages...”

The Priest can usually switch back and forth between all 3 liturgies during the one liturgy



# ORDER OF EVENTS- RECAP OF PREVIOUS LESSON

1

- First liturgy was put forth by our Lord Jesus Christ on Holy Thursday

2

- After Jesus's ascension into Heaven St James the apostle prayed the first liturgy w

3

- Then St. Mark the apostle Prayed a 2<sup>nd</sup> liturgy Which was handed down to the bishops and priests

St. Mark's  
liturgy

- Liturgy of St. Mark was handed down

430  
AD

- Until 430 AD, when Pope Cyril the 1<sup>st</sup> added few parts to the liturgy.
- To what is now known to be : Liturgy of St. Cyril

Afterwards

- St. Gregory the theologian added few parts → Liturgy of St. Gregory
- St. Basil also changed few parts → Liturgy of St. Basil



# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE LITURGY?

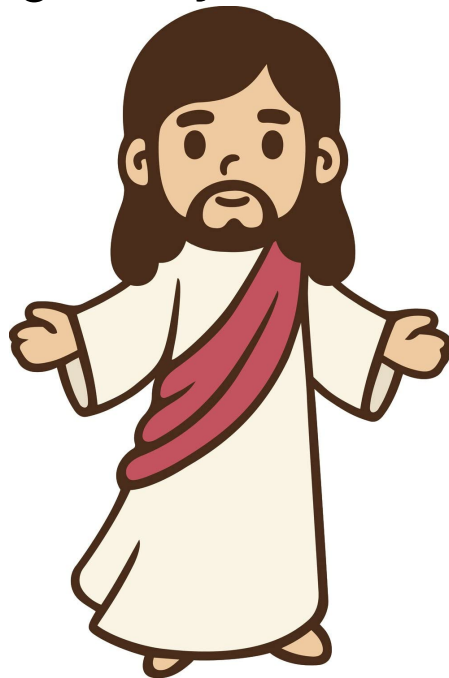
- The liturgy is the most important ritual a Christian can participate in.
- In it, a person get to partake of the True Body and Blood of Jesus Christ
- In it, a person gets forgiveness of sins.
- In it, a person units with God.
- Preparing for liturgy is extremely important
  - A person can transform from practicing rituals and performing actions to...
  - *Living* the liturgy



# ANALOGY OF AN ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY

(DISCLAIMER: TAKEN FROM A SERVANT IN EGYPT)

- In our church we call...
- **Jesus** The bridegroom
- **The church and it's believers** the bride.
- So the liturgy is a celebration... analogy of the bridegroom goes to his bride and saying:... Rejoice Tomorrow is our engagement day 😊





- The bride the entire evening telling everyone how to prepare for next day's event.

## VESPERS (ASHEYA)



- She spends the night telling them about all the amazing things her “fiancé” has done for her in the past:

## **MIDNIGHT PRAISES (TASBEHA)**





- The next morning, she wakes up **super early!** to get ready.

# MATINS

## (OFFERING OF MORNING INCENSE)



- The Bridegroom finally arrives and is knocking on the door!
- The bride opens, the entire family is present. The Bridegroom says: I'm here for our engagement, I am officially *offering* myself for you!

## OFFERING OF THE LAMB





- Then the bride asks the Bridegroom, tell us more about yourself

# LITURGY OF THE WORD



- The bride says I'm so happy I heard all these cool stories... I'm so convinced and I can't wait to marry You. "I *believe* everything you said"

# LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL

(Liturgy of the Believers)



**LET'S LOOK AT THE VESSELS**





# THE SACRED VESSELS AND THEIR MEANINGS



# 1- THE PATEN

- The Paten is usually made from gold or silver
- It represents the Lord's Manger



# 2- THE DOME

- Made of 2 arches that form the shape of Cross
- The Dome represents the star that appeared to the wise men



# 3- THE CHALICE/SPOON

- The Communion Cup, into which wine mixed with water is poured
- The spoon is used to administer the Blood of Jesus Christ



# 4- THE ARK

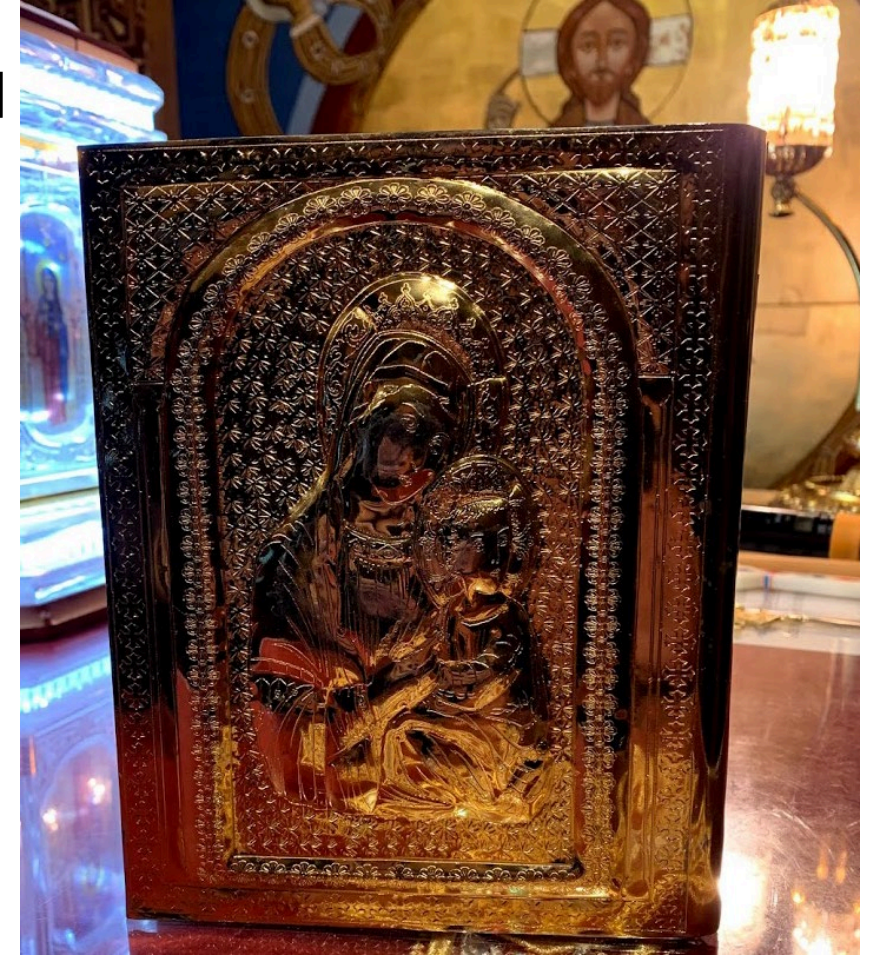
- In the middle of the Altar, there is a box, which means symbolizes the throne', and is used as a Chalice stand.
- Top is closed with high flaps.
- It is called the Ark because the Blood which gives life to whoever drinks from it is represented by the pot of Manna which was in the Ark of covenant and was a symbol of the true Body of Christ.





# 5- THE BOOK OF THE GOSPEL

- A metal case which holds the 4 Gospels
- Usually, there's a icon of St. Mary holding Jesus on one side and icon of Resurrection or Crucifixion on the other side



# 6- THE CENSER (SHORYA)

- The upper dome represents heaven
- The lower dome represents the womb of St. Mary
- The coal represents Christ's Humanity
- The fire represents Christ's Divinity
- The three chains represent the Trinity, and are united by one chain in the Middle (the unity of the Trinity).





**NOW, LET'S GO OVER THE DETAILS**



# 1- WEARING THE VESTMENTS

- The priest goes over his thoughts to ensure his mind and body are pure and that he's reconciled with everyone
- The deacons and priests dress in white as they resemble angels of heaven who praise the throne of God
- An absolution/prayer is needed for the deacon to dress

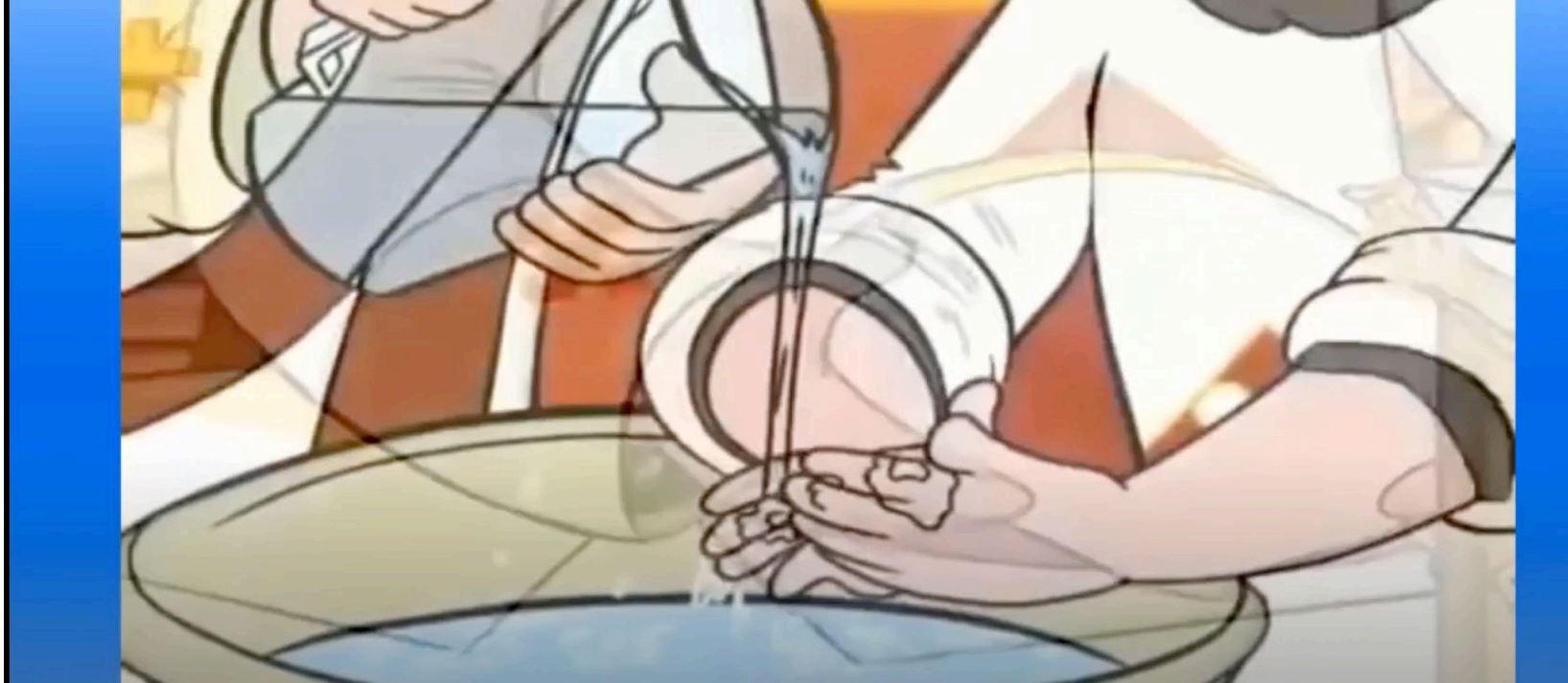


# 2- CLOTHING THE ALTAR/ AND PRAYING THE PSALMS

- The Priest wipes any dust on the altar
- The priest unwraps the utensils, which are wrapped in special cloth
  - Tied a 5 knots (Why?)
- Then the Agpeya is prayed, **\*\*while the offertory bread is in the church\*\***
  - **Why?** Because Agpeya is part of the liturgical prayer, they are prophecies about the incarnation
- Why do we pray 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> hour, sometimes also the 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, sometimes the 12<sup>th</sup>?
  - Is it based on how much time we have?



# 3-THE WASHING OF HANDS



- The Priest washes his hands there times and asks God for repentance and purity as he's about to start praying the liturgy.





# 4-THE SELECTION OF THE LAMB





# 4-THE SELECTION OF THE LAMB

- The priest picks from the offertory bread, which are odd in number (3, 5 or 7)
- He crosses his hand over on another, symbolizing the sign of the cross.
- He picks the most suitable bread for offering:
- The priest then touches each of the other breads in the basket with the back of the chosen bread... **WHY?**



# 4-THE SELECTION OF THE LAMB

- Before picking the bread, the priest takes the canter of wine from the deacon and passes it around to the 3 deacons/priest next to him. **WHY?**
- He then wipes the chosen bread carefully with the small veil, taking care not to turn it upside down.
- He then dips his right thumb the wine and makes the sign of the cross on the picked bread, then on the rest of the bread, then **BACK AGAIN** on the picked bread. **WHY?**



# 5-BAPTIZING OF THE LAMB





# 6-PROCESSION OF THE LAMB



# 6-PROCESSION OF THE LAMB

- The priest wraps the Lamb in the same veil he used during its selection.
- He puts the cross on top of it and, bending a bit (as Christ bent while holding the Cross on His back going to Golgotha)
- The priest says: Glory and Honor, Honor and Glory– what's happening here?
- The procession around the altar would now be a symbol for carrying the body of Jesus wrapped in linen to lay it in the tomb





# 6-CONSECRATING THE OFFERINGS:

- The priest makes the sign of the cross on both the bread and the wine three times
  - consecrating them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit



# 6-CONSECRATING THE OFFERINGS:

- Next the priest uncovers the chalice.
- He takes the decanter from the deacon and pours the wine in the chalice.
- Then the deacon pours some water in the decanter and the priest adds water to the wine (not exceeding  $1/3$  and not less than  $1/10$ ). WHY?



# 6-CONSECRATING THE OFFERINGS:



ΑΟC: الشعب:  
IC ἄΜΗΝ: حقاً. خَلَصْتِ  
ΤΩ ولِزُوجِكَ.  
ΡΜΑΤΙ

*Prothesis of the Bread*



# 7-THE ABSOLUTION OF MINISTERS

- What's my purpose in the liturgy? Am I a spectator?
- Check our the order of names we mention?
- Who are these people? What do they stand for?
- I need absolution from those who defended the faith
  - I can't partake of the Holy Communion if my faith is not correct





# THE TRUE PURPOSE OF UNDERSTAND THE LITURGY

- It's not only so I have an explanation when I'm being asked why we do what we do
- The true purpose is
  - I realize the spiritual message to me personally with every action happening
  - It's to realize the magnitude of love God has for me, that through this sacrifice, I will live
  - It's to be ready to receive the Holy Body and Blood for remission of sins
- My trip to Sunday liturgy should be a true celebration in my heart.
- I judge it by examining myself when I leave the church, Am I changed?

