

Concluding Prayer of the Rites of Initiation

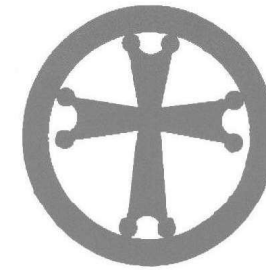
Cel: O Lord God, magnificent and fearsome, you grant forgiveness of sins to those who are born by baptism, through water and Spirit; you bestow a new birth to those corrupted by sin; you raise up those who have fallen; you shield those who come close to you. O Lord, enlighten the heart of your servant, **N.**, who has just received baptism. As you enabled him/her to become a son/daughter of your grace, in your merciful kindness keep him/her firmly in the ranks of your children. Grant, O Lord, that after being purified with the waters of your covenant, he/she may be a member of a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people, a blessed community. May he/she not put aside, with the visible robe of his/her body, the invisible and hidden robe which is you, our Christ. But be for him/her, O Lord God, an invisible and incorruptible robe, so that he/she be strong against the desires of error and invincible before evil spirits. It is fitting to you, O Lord, to show compassion, to redeem and save all those who turn to you. O Lord our God, to you be glory, forever.

Cong: Amen.

Prayer for the Washing of the Celebrant's Hands

Cel: O Jesus Christ, our Lord, you came to sanctify the waters of the Jordan by your baptism and with your grace, which you poured forth over all the waters and peoples of the earth. By your word and power you have invited us, and we have called upon the Holy Spirit to sanctify these waters, in which your servant has been washed. Jesus Christ our Lord, may your name be praised, your divinity exalted, and your mercy and pardon descend upon us. O Lord our God, to you be glory, forever. Amen.

The Mysteries of Initiation



According to the Rite of the Antiochene Syriac Maronite Church

Saint George Maronite Church

2020

Preparations

The priest and deacon wear their proper liturgical vestments. The celebrant may wear only the jibbee and stole when the ceremony is performed outside the Divine Service of the Mysteries.

A table, covered with a white cloth, is prepared outside the sanctuary. On it are: the holy oils, a vessel of water (in case baptism takes place away from the baptismal font), cotton balls to remove the oils from the candidate’s forehead and the celebrant’s hands, the church’s baptismal register.

Two lighted candles and a censer with lighted charcoal are placed next to this table.

During the service, the celebrant and ministers stand behind the table, facing the congregation.

Rite of Admission of the Candidate to the Church

This rite is intended for children. When the mother comes to the church with the child, on the day of baptism or on an earlier day, the celebrant celebrates this rite as indicated below.

The mother, holding her child, stands at the entrance to the church, where the celebrant meets them. He wears a jibbee and stole and holds the handcross in his right hand. He is to be accompanied by a deacon.

However, if the mother comes without her child, the celebrant is to recite only the “Prayer over the Mother.” He then leads her into the church and concludes with the invocation: “O Lord, save your people...” and the blessing with the handcross.

When the child is brought to the church only for baptism, and the rite of admission has been celebrated already, one of the sponsors, not the mother, will carry the child in his/her arms, and the celebrant says the proper prayer over him/her.

If the candidate for baptism is an adult, he/she is received at the entrance of the church, surrounded by his/her sponsors. The celebrant recites only the “Prayer over the Candidate” with the necessary adaptations.

Syriac: *fsheeto*

- ❖ The Lord reigns clothed in majesty. Alleluia!
John mixed the waters and Christ blessed and entered them.
The heights and depths paid him honor
when he came out of the waters,
The sun lowered its rays and the stars
bent down to adore
He Who is the Sanctifier of all rivers
and sources of water throughout all creation.
Alleluia! Accept our Bap’tism!
- ❖ He is clothed in power and might. Alleluia!
Who has beheld two sisters of such great beauty?
She, the forgiving Baptism
and her sister, the Faithful Church.
Between them lies a great mystery:
one gives birth, one rears.
What Baptism has begotten in the waters,
the Church receives and presents it at the altars.
Alleluia! And gives life to it!
- ❖ Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!
Who is She who has begotten from the waters?
The old enter and are made new.
She forgives faults and absolves sins.
Behold! This is the true Baptism:
St. John proclaimed it
Christ, Our God, entered the waters of the Jordan
for the salvation of the world He created.
Alleluia! Forgive us, O Lord!
- ❖ Now and forever. Amen. Alleluia!
I marveled about St. John and Eleizer.
They found two brides for their masters.
For Abraham, Eleizer
betrothed Rebecca by Harron’s well.
And St. John betrothed
the Church by the waters of the River Jordan.
Sinners enter them and come out victorious.
Alleluia! Accept our bap’tism!

Cel: And of the Son.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: And of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

The celebrant may bind the newly chrismated with a headband, as a crown to protect the Myron, and gird him/her with a belt saying:

Cel: You have been clothed with the living Father, you have received Christ, the Son, you have put on the Holy Spirit, and you have been given the robe of glory, which Adam laid aside.

The Mystery of Communion

Outside the celebration of the Divine Service of the Holy Mysteries, the celebrant communicates the newly baptized with the Holy Mysteries, according to the Communion Rite. Then he prays over him/her,

Cel: O Source of life, who erupted to quench our thirst; O Fount of healing who washed our impurity; O Drop of compassion who erased our defects; O Table of blessings who filled our hunger; O Chalice of salvation who quenched our thirst; O Lord, in your mercy heed the sound of our prayer and open the door of your mercies to our petition. This lamb who has come to your house, is mingled with your flock. Adorn his/her soul, clothe him/her with your holy might and deliver him/her from evil. Let him/her become a temple of your divinity. O Lord our God, to you be glory, forever.

Cong: Amen.

Procession with the Baptized

The celebrant and deacon process with the newly baptized person through the church three times. They are accompanied with incense, icons, and the sound of cymbals or other instruments. They sing the following hymn:

Doxology

Cel: Glory ✝ be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Prayer Over the Mother

Cel: O Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, hidden Son of the hidden Father, you graciously came down from heaven, for the sake of our humble and feeble race. You took a human body from the Virgin Mary and received circumcision on the eighth day after your birth. You offered the sacrifice prescribed for your purification, yet you are yourself the gracious sacrifice and the pleasant aroma, in whom your Father delights, for the sake of our humble and feeble race.

O Lord and mighty God, grand pardon to your servant, N. She comes today to your holy temple, and to me, your humble and sinful servant, to present her offering and supplication, and to implore the gifts of your heavenly grace, which you bestow upon us, through the order of the priesthood.

Send the grace of your Holy Spirit upon her. Sanctify her body ✝ and soul and adorn her with holiness. Make her a pure vessel for the glory of your divinity and enable her to enter your holy temple. O Lord our God, to you be glory, forever.

Cong: Amen.

Prayer Over the Candidate

The Priest then lays his right hand upon the head of the candidate, praying:

Cel: O Lord and mighty God, Lord of lords and God of gods, I beseech you on behalf of your creature, the work of your hands, this little child (candidate), who comes to your holy temple, in order to show forth the mystery you have revealed to us, through the human body you took from our nature as old Simeon held you in his arms; O Jesus Christ, our Lord, now extend your divine right hand along with my own hand as your humble servant and priest, and bless this child (candidate). By your invisible power, sign him/her with the glorious mark of your holy cross. Accompany him/her with your grace all the days of his/her life. Enable him/her to enter your holy temple and to receive the glorious seal of the holy Myron, the pleasant aroma, through which, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and according to your true promises to us, we become children of God and heirs of his kingdom. For you are our God, to whom we offer glory, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Leading of the Candidate to the Altar

He invites the mother to enter the church; he takes the child from her, and carrying it in his arms enters the church. He then proceeds to the altar and lays the child before the altar.

If the candidate is an adult, the celebrant leads him/her by the hand to the altar.

The following *qolo* is sung alternately:

Syriac: *msatroneh dnooh*

❖ Give to the Lord, you children of God. (Ps. 29:1a)

Mary carried her son in her arms,
and she brought with her a pair of doves
She carried him to the temple as prescribed,
by Israel’s Law.

❖ Give to the Lord glory and praise. (Ps. 29:1b)

Once the forty days were completed,
He made sacrifice to his Father,
and the priest held in his arms the One who gave
priesthood to Moses.

❖ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

May the pray’r of your Mother join ours
and may we prevail over Satan.
May he fall, as the tower of Jericho
fell before Josh’ua.

❖ Now and forever and ever. Amen.

Exalt, Lord, your Mother’s memory,
prophets, apostles, and martyrs too.
Be mindful of the dead who ate your Body
and slept in your hope.

Baptism

Cel: N. is baptized a lamb in the flock of Christ
in the name of the Father.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: And of the Son.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: And of the Holy Spirit, for eternal life.

Cong: Amen.

Vesting with the White Garment

After the baptism, the celebrant presents the newly baptized with a white garment and the newly baptized is vested.

Cel: May God who granted you to bear his living seal, enable you to keep it in innocence for the life of your soul. In keeping your conscience and body pure from stain and your soul holy, may you be able to call the Father, Our Father. As he made you worthy of his holy birth, may he make you worthy of eternal life.

Cong: Amen.

The Mystery of Chrismation

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A candle is lit and given to the parents and sponsors.

Chrismation

The celebrant dips the thumb of his right hand into the Myron and signs the newly baptized on his/her forehead in the form of a cross saying:

Cel: With the Myron of Christ our God, sweet fragrance of the true faith, seal and fullness of the grace of the heavenly Spirit. N., the servant of God, is sealed in the name of the Father

Cong: Amen.

The Mystery of Baptism

Cel: Peace ✕ be with you.

Cong: And with your spirit.

Blessing

Deacon: Bow your heads before the merciful Lord, and before his forgiving baptism, and receive the blessings of the Lord.

The celebrant prays silently:

Cel: May N., be signed as an innocent lamb of your flock. With your seal may he/she be numbered among your spiritual sheepfold, enter into your flock and mingle with your sheep. May he/she become yours and be protected from evil. May he/she be blessed with the sign of the glorious Trinity and be granted the second birth. He/She will sing praise and offer thanks to you.

He raises his voice:

Indeed, O Lord, bless ✕ him/her in your name and protect him/her with your cross from the evil one and his powers, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens

The celebrant stands at the baptismal font, facing west, while the candidate faces east. The celebrant anoints him/her with the holy oil on his/her forehead, in the form of the cross.

Cel: N. is anointed as a member of the flock of Christ, with the living oil of the divine anointing. In the name of the ✕ Father, and of the ✕ Son, and of the ✕ Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

Giving a Name to the Candidate

The celebrant then gives the child back to his/her mother.

He inquires about the name chosen for the child (candidate).

He makes the sign of the cross on the candidate from forehead to chest, and from right ear to left, as he addresses the candidate, by name, saying:

Cel: N., may the seal of the holy cross, ✕ symbol of victory, be your shelter and protection until the day you receive the seal of Christ through the waters of baptism. Then, when you are granted this seal of your Lord, you will enter and join with his spiritual flock, forever.

Cong: Amen.

The celebrant blesses the congregation with the handcross, saying:

Cel: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Feed them, and carry them forever.

Inscription of the Name in the Church Baptismal Register

The Christian name given to the candidate may then be entered into the church register along with the name of the sponsors.

Preparatory Rites for the Mysteries of Initiation

The celebrant begins the prayers that precede the baptism. He celebrates them in the same manner as a canonical hour of the divine office.

The child (candidate), parents, sponsors, and congregation gather in the center of the church.

In emergency cases, the celebrant may omit the service of the word and proceed to the rite of the catechumens.

Service of the Word

Doxology

The celebrant begins, saying:

Cel: Glory ✠ be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Cel: Lord God, you entrusted this spiritual service of holy baptism to your divine apostles, and commanded them to baptize the world in fire and Spirit. May it be administered through us sinners to this soul who prepares for holy baptism. Adorn him/her with the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Then he/she will offer glory and praise to you, to your blessed Father, and to your living and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

The deacon proclaims the *broodi*kee:

Deacon: Again and again, for this holy baptismal font mingled with the Holy Spirit, purified and sanctified by the descent of the grace of the heavenly King.

Cong: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our fathers, the priests who blessed it; for the people who still live in the natural state and who enter to be baptized, again, always and together, let us pray to the Lord.

Cong: Lord, have mercy.

The Lord’s Prayer

The celebrant says the introduction to the Lord’s Prayer:

Cel: O Lord, sanctify our souls and bodies. We stand before you, with good hearts, enlightened souls, and shameless faces. We raise to you the blessed and holy prayer you taught your holy disciples when you told them: ‘Each time you pray, pray in this manner, praising, glorifying and saying’: Our Father, who art in heaven...

Cong: 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. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Embolism

The celebrant prays silently:

Cel: O Good Shepherd, you find those who stray and sign your flock with the sign of the glorious Trinity. Protect this flock from the ravenous wolf in your glorious name.

He raises his voice:

Cel: Strengthen, O Lord, our weakness during our struggle. Grant us victory always over trials. Clothe us with the armor of truth, by which error is firmly defeated. With might confound the evil before us. Bestow upon us a share and an inheritance in the heavenly kingdom with your saints. To you belong the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.

Cong: Amen.

Comingling with the Myron

The celebrant then mixes the Holy Myron with the water: he pours four drops into the water, in the form of a cross. The deacon first sings:

Deacon: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

As he drops the first drop into the water, the celebrant says:

Cel: We sign these waters with the sacred Myron, in the name of the Father, life for all the living.

Deacon: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

At the second drop, the celebrant says:

Cel: In the name of the Holy One, the Only Son, and like Him, life for all the living.

Deacon: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

As he drops the third and fourth drops, the celebrant says:

Cel: In the name of the Holy Spirit, the beginning, end, and perfection of all that is and will be in heaven and on earth, for eternal life.

Cong: Amen.

The celebrant then says:

Cel: Blessed are you, O Lord God, for you purified and sanctified these waters by the power of the glorious Trinity, and they became a new womb, giving birth to spiritual children. To you be glory, forever.

Cong: Amen.

Psalm 51

Psalm 51 is then sung. The verses may be alternated between the celebrant and the congregation.

* Have mercy on me, O God, / in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out / my offense.
Thoroughly wash me / from my guilt;
and of my / sin cleanse me.

** For I acknowledge / my offense,
and my sin is be- / fore me always:
“Against you only / have I sinned,
and done what is evil / in your sight.”

* That you may be justified / in your sentence,
vindicated when / you condemn.
Indeed, in guilt / was I born,
and in sin my mo- / ther conceived me;

** Behold, you are pleased with sincerity / of heart,
and in my inmost being you / teach me wisdom.
Cleanse me of sin with hyssop, that I may be / purified;
wash me, and I shall be whi- / ter than snow.

* Let me hear the sound of / joy and gladness;
the bones you have crushed / shall rejoice.
Turn away your face / from my sins,
and blot out / all my guilt.

** A clean heart create for / me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit re- / new within me.
Cast me not out / from your presence,
and your holy spirit take / not from me.

* Give me back the joy of / your salvation,
and a willing spirit sus- / tain in me.
I will teach transgress- / ors your ways,
and sinners shall re- / turn to you.

** Free me from blood guilt, O God, my / saving God;
then my tongue shall revel / in your justice.
O LORD, o- / pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- / claim your praise.

*/** For you are not pleased with / sacrifices;
should I offer a holocaust, you would / not accept it.
My sacrifice, O God, is a / contrite spirit;
a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you / will not spurn.

Hoosoyo

The celebrant places incense in the censer and blesses it, saying:

Cel: I offer this incense to the praise and honor of the holy and glorious Trinity. Let us all pray and beseech the Lord for mercy and pardon.

Proemion

He then sings the proemion:

Cel: May we be worthy to offer praise, thanksgiving, worship, exaltation, and honor to the Holy One, who gives holiness to the sanctifying mysteries, and exalts the sacramental ministries; to the High Priest, who showed us the way of purification by first purifying himself in the waters of the Jordan, and led us on the path of life to redeem us from our sins. To the Good One are due glory and honor, at this time, and at all times, celebrations, hours, and days of our lives, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Sedro

He then sings the sedro:

Cel: O God, in your love, you became flesh, born of the blessed Virgin, in a wondrous manner. You offered us to your gracious Father for adoption as his children through water and Spirit. You fashioned children in their mother’s wombs, yet you willingly became a child, in order to renew the image of Adam, aged and corrupted by sin. You renewed him by the holy and spiritual fire of the baptismal furnace. Although you did not need to be baptized, you came to its waters, in order to sanctify the waters of the Jordan. O Son of the Majesty on high, you bowed your head before John the Baptizer. The Father proclaimed and thundered from heaven: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” The Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and rested on your head, while the spiritual powers stood watching in awe and trembling. Lord God, now extend the right hand of your mercy upon your servant who is prepared for holy baptism. Sanctify, purify, and cleanse him/her through your forgiving hyssop. Bless and protect your people and your inheritance. You have clothed us, through your baptism, with the robe of glory and with the seal of the Holy and life-giving Spirit, and called us to be spiritual children in the second birth of holy and forgiving baptism. So now enable us, by your victorious power, and with the confidence of beloved children, to glorify you with joyous faces, your Father, who sent you to redeem us, and your Holy and living Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

He breathes upon the water in a form of a cross, saying:

Cel: O Lord, look upon these waters placed before you, in this humble vessel.

Epiclesis

He invokes the Holy Spirit and, while the deacon continues the proclamation, continues silently:

Cel: O Lord, drive away the rebellious power of the enemy from these waters. From those who enter them to be baptized, and from this place. Bestow upon them the power of the Holy Spirit. As the womb of our mother, Eve, gave birth to mortal and corruptible children, so may the womb of this baptismal font give birth to heavenly and incorruptible children. And as the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters at the work of creation, and gave birth to living creatures and animals of all kinds, may he hover over this baptismal font which is a spiritual womb. May he dwell in it and sanctify it. Instead of an earthly Adam, may it give birth to a heavenly Adam. May those who enter it to be baptized be permanently changed and receive a spiritual nature instead of a corporal one, a participation in the invisible reality instead of the visible one, and instead of the weakness of their spirit may the Holy Spirit abide in them.

He kneels and invokes the Holy Spirit, chanting:

Cel: Hear me, O Lord;
Hear me, O Lord;
Hear me, O Lord.

He stands up and prays silently.

Cel: O Lord, may the Holy Spirit come and abide in these waters. May he drive away from them the power of the enemy. May he enkindle them with an invincible strength. May he bless ✠ them, sanctify ✠ them, and make them like the waters which flowed from the side of your only Son on the cross. May those who enter them and are baptized, be cleansed, purified, and clothed in the robe of justice. May they be clad against the attacks of the Evil One with heavenly vesture and with the shield of faith.

He raises his voice:

Cel: Then they will rise up, purified and sanctified, putting on the armor of salvation, and offering glory and thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to whom is due glory, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

The celebrant prays silently, while the deacon repeats the median proclamation, above:

Cel: Glory to you, O Eternal Being! In your hidden mystery you bear the universe, which you created in your glorious wisdom. Your awesome mystery rules creation with your masterful intelligence. The awe-inspiring hidden work of creation becomes known to your servants through the manifold display of your marvelous deeds. Nothing is able to exist or stand without you, but all, with the mouths you gave them glorify you.

He raises his voice:

Cel: With mouths that continuously praise you, and unceasing voices, and with all heavenly hosts, they proclaim and sing your glory as we too implore you to make us worthy in your grace, to repeat with them over these holy baptismal waters, and to proclaim three times:

Cong: Holy, holy, holy are you, Mighty Lord, God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your great glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who has come and will come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Consecration of the Baptismal Waters

The celebrant prays silently, while the deacon repeats the median proclamation, above:

Cel: O Glorious God of majesty, you are concealed in the wealth of your being, yet you are manifested in your wonders and awesome in your powerful deeds. We now raise to you our prayer and petition for you to receive the penitents and draw near the deprived. In your mercy you work wonders, and in your compassion for us your majesty willed to renew life within us. In your love without equal you sent your only Son to redeem us. He is co-eternal with you and begotten from you without beginning. When he left the dwelling place of your hiddenness, he descended and abided in the virginal womb, in order to be born from flesh. He remained entirely with you, yet he entirely dwelt with us. Though he had no need, he received baptism in the river Jordan and sanctified for us this font of baptism, a salvific and fruitful womb. By your will, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, he abided in the world in three places: in a womb of flesh, in the womb of baptism, and in the dark mansions of Sheol.

He raises his voice:

Cel: Make us worthy then to rise up from the earthly abyss to the dwelling place of the glorious Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To you be glory, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Qolo

Syriac: *qadeeshat rohemnosh*

- ❖ Holy are you,
O God: in your great bounty
you renewed our nature
condemned in Sheol.
- ❖ Holy are you,
O Mighty One: your love moved
you to purify us
and to cleanse our stains.
- ❖ Holy are you,
O Immortal God: to us
you gave life and from our
defilement, pardon.
- ❖ Glory to you,
O Lord: because of your love:
sinners, through your mercy,
are pardoned their sins.
- ❖ Behold, the Church
and her children adore you
and implore you always,
whom you willed to save.
- ❖ Bestow, O Lord
our God, forgiveness of sins,
to those who implore you
for pardon of faults.
- ❖ Make all of us,
worthy to stand at your right,
and to sing praise to your
goodness forever.

Etro

He then sings the etro:

Cel: O Holy One, who is blessed by the saints, and lives and abides in them with the dwelling of his divinity, sanctify our bodies, souls, and minds through the descent and action of your Holy and divine Spirit, and make them the dwelling of your divinity. Purify our hearts by the hyssop of your mercy. Enlighten our darkened minds by the abundance of your clemency. Gather our spirits and thoughts away from the corrupting errors of this world filled with sadness. Then we will thank, adore, and glorify you for your mercy toward us: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Mazmooro

Deacon: Let us sing and the psalm of glory and may God bless us.

Cel: Praise and glorify the Lord!

Syriac: *onokh yeshoo'*

Cong: O God, the waters saw you, and trembled, O Lord.
The depths were troubled and the clouds poured out water.

Cel: The sea saw and fled; Jordan turned back on its course.
The depths were troubled and the clouds poured out water.

All: Your flock, O Jesus, stands at your door for your seal.
Shield the children who are sealed by you from all harm.

Readings

Epistle

Fetgomo

Cantor: Alleluia! The voice of the Lord is over the waters, the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over the vast waters. Alleluia!

Gospel

Greeting

The celebrant signs the baptismal font with the handcross and then the congregation, to the right and to the left, saying:

Cel: ✠ May the peace of God the Father, ✠ the harmony of the Son, who rules all ✠ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and forgives all, be with us and among us and with these holy baptismal waters.

Cong: And with your spirit.

Commemoration of the Plan of Salvation

Cel: In this holy and glorious baptismal mystery we commemorate for eternal life our Lord Jesus Christ, his birth, his baptism, his passion, his death, his resurrection, his ascension to the glorious Father, his sitting at the right hand of the One who sent him, and his second coming in glory. We also commemorate our Lady Mary, his Mother, John the Baptizer, and the Holy Church who received him.

Cong: Amen.

Cel: May our thoughts, consciences and hearts rise in purity on high, to the One who knows the secrets of our hearts.

Cong: To you, O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, glorious and holy King, forever.

Cel: To you, the eyes of our hearts are raised, our hands and thought are extended. And as the deer years for the streams of water, our souls yearn for you, O Lord God. Let the source of life burst forth for us from the living and spiritual waters, to quench our thirst in the midst of the furnace of sin. As far as the East is from the West, so may the compassionate and merciful Lord keep our faults from us. We will then offer praise and glory:

Cong: To the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

With the handcross, the celebrant signs the baptismal water three times, saying each time:

Cel: ✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies these waters through the mystery of the glorious Trinity, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Anaphora for the Consecration of the Baptismal Water

All process, in an orderly manner, to the baptismal font. The deacon begins chanting the median proclamation, and during the whole anaphora, he will repeat its verses, each time the celebrant prays silently.

Median Diaconal Proclamation

Deacon: Let us stand and pray. Let us pray with faith. Let us implore and beseech with a pure conscience, the Lord who came down from on high to redeem the family of Adam from sin through holy baptism.

Let us implore the purifying hyssop to remove and strip from us the old man, - the one corrupted and ruined, and clothe us with the new one, - rejuvenated, perfected and sanctified by the baptism of forgiveness.

Let us pray now, as the Holy Spirit, descends from on high, and, through the fervor of his overshadowing, grants us the pardon of our faults.

May the waters assembled in this font be for us a second birth. May those who receive baptism in them have the remission of their sins and the pardon of their faults.

Let us pray that, once baptized, we may sin no more, and that, once sanctified, we not slip and fall again. May the members of our body become holy – pure temples and dwelling places for God, in which his sublime majesty finds rest.

May we be worthy to offer from the sanctuary, ceaseless glory and pleasing praise with one voice, to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Rite for the Catechumens

If the candidate is a child, the sponsors hold him/her and respond to the prayers on his/her behalf. If the candidate is an adult, the sponsors stand at his/her side, hold him/her by the right hand and join him/her in the responses.

Diaconal Proclamation

The deacon or cantor proclaims:

Deacon: O Christ our God, you came into this world and made baptism to be like a mother who brings forth spiritual children unto life eternal. We beseech you:

Cong: O Lord, answer us.

Deacon: O Christ our God, through your holy baptism, you sanctify the waters of the Jordan and all waters. You promised the kingdom and new life to those who descend into it, receive baptism, and confess your holy name. We implore you:

Cong: O Lord, answer us.

Syriac: *fsheeto*

Deacon: Alleluia!
The Prophet cried: The daughter of the King stood with
splendor and the Queen on her right,
arrayed in splendor and glory.
The King’s daughter is like Baptism,
the Church is his Queen.
The Church descended and was clothed in Baptism.
She received the Groom who betrothed her as a pledge.
Alleluia! Accept our bap’tism!

Prayer Over the Candidate

The celebrant prays over the candidate:

Cel: Blessed are you, Lord God, Lover of Mankind. You called to yourself those who are laden by all kinds of evil. You said to them: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest”. Now call your servant, N., to holy baptism. Make him/her worthy to enjoy your great gift, as you renew in him/her your Holy Spirit. We will then offer praise to the glorious Trinity, ✠ Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, to whom be glory, forever.

Cong: Amen.

The Exorcisms

The candidate turns toward the East and the celebrant faces him/her. With the hand cross, the celebrant blesses him/her on the head at each of the following exorcisms:

Cel: I exorcise you, wicked demons and unclean spirits, and all the armies of the enemy, in the fearsome name ✠ of God, who sits on the chariot of crystal, and is served by thousands of thousands and before whom stands myriads and myriads.

I exorcise you, in the great and fearsome name of "I am who I am", ✠ the mighty God and Lord of the armies, who spoke to Moses from the bush and came down to Sinai, with the sound of trumpets.

I exorcise you, in the wonderful, ever-reigning name, of God almighty, ✠ who became man and vanquished your dominion, who humbled himself by his own will, and embraced death on the wooden cross, and redeemed Adam and his children from the slavery of sin.

I exorcise you, to depart from this creature, betrothed to the living God, ✠ to disperse and leave alone this servant of God, who came to be a dwelling place in the Holy Spirit.

Behold, the Shepherd runs toward his lamb! When he sees the ravening wolf, he will destroy it, like the cloud at the approach of the wind. And I sign and seal this lamb against the army of the devils. In the name of the ✠ Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the ✠ Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

Renunciation of Satan

Then, the celebrant asks the all present to face west (toward the back of the Church) and to renounce Satan. They repeat after him:

I renounce you, Satan,
all your angels,
all your powers,
all your worldly pomp,
all your corrupt teachings
and all that is from you.

Profession of Faith

The celebrant asks those present to face east (the front of the Church) and to profess their Faith in God. They repeat after him:

I believe in you, O Almighty God, the Father,
in your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ,
in your Holy and living Spirit, the Paraclete,
in all your angels,
in all your powers,
in all the teachings of the holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
and in all that is from you.

Then all pray together:

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and we look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Cel: Glory to you, O Lord God, you became a shepherd and gathered us, a baptizer and purified us, a teacher and taught us. You endured poverty and enriched us, and seated us at the right hand of your Father. O Lord, in your mercy and kindness you humbled yourself, and clothed our flesh. You received baptism from John in the river Jordan, and through it you sanctified the baptismal waters for us.

Cong: Amen.