

# Mystagogy in the Coptic Church

Consecration,  
Liturgy, and  
Ordination

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# Introduction

## Mystagogy:

Introduction into the mysteries and deeper understanding of the sacraments within the Coptic Orthodox Church.

## Focus:

Examining the rituals and theology behind consecration, liturgy, and ordination in the Coptic Church, for a deeper understanding of these sacred rites.



# Church Consecration

- **Definition:** The act of dedicating a church building for divine worship.
- **Anointing with Holy Chrism:** Symbolizes the Holy Spirit's presence and sanctification
- **Prayers and Incense:** Invoke God's blessings and symbolizes the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven.



# Church Consecration

*“The consecration of a church is a profound spiritual event, transforming a building into a sacred space, dedicated to the worship of God and the celebration of the sacraments”*

*(Two Thousand Years of Coptic Christianity : Otto F. A. Meinardus).*





# The Structure of the Liturgy

## Three Main Parts:

- **Offering of the Lamb:** Preparation and selection of the bread and wine, symbolizing Christ's sacrifice.
- **Liturgy of the Catechumens:** Scriptural readings, hymns, and homilies that prepare the congregation.
- **Liturgy of the Faithful:** Eucharistic prayers, the consecration of the elements, and Eucharist (Communion).





# The Structure of the Liturgy

*“The Divine Liturgy is the central act of worship, where the faithful partake in the Body and Blood of Christ” (Liturgical and Ritualistic Studies: Dr. Joseph Faltas).*



# Detailed Components of the Liturgy

## Eucharistic Prayers:

- **Anaphora:** Central prayer of thanksgiving and consecration.
- **Epiclesis:** Invocation of the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine.



# Detailed Components of the Liturgy

## Liturgical Actions:

- **Kiss of Peace:** Sign of reconciliation and unity among the faithful.
- **Breaking of the Bread:** Symbolizes Christ's body broken for us.



# Detailed Components of the Liturgy

## Participation:

- **Congregational Response:**  
Active involvement through responses, hymns, and prayers.



# Detailed Components of the Liturgy

*The grace of God in us is beyond our senses as we accept this grace from God. The church grants grace every time it repeats Saint Paul's words "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Cor. 13:14) .(Life of Faith: Pope Shenouda III)*





# The Sacrament of Ordination

## Three Major Orders:

- **Deacon:** Role includes assisting in liturgical services, proclaiming the Gospel, and caring for the needy.
- **Priest:** Administers sacraments, preaches, and leads the congregation in worship.
- **Bishop:** Oversees multiple congregations, ordains clergy, and ensures doctrinal integrity.





# The Sacrament of Ordination

## Ritual Steps:

- **Laying on of Hands:** Symbolizes the transmission of the Holy Spirit and apostolic authority.
- **Prayer of Consecration:** Calls for the divine grace necessary for the ministry.
- **Liturgical Vestments:** Each garment signifies a specific aspect of the clerical office.





# The Sacrament of Ordination

“Ordination is a sacrament that imparts the grace of the Holy Spirit, enabling the ordained to perform sacred duties” (*The Order of Priesthood: Sacrament of Priesthood in the Coptic Orthodox Church* : Bishop Mettaous).



# Theological Foundations

## Key Theological Concepts:

- **Sacramentality:** The role of sacraments in imparting divine grace and facilitating spiritual transformation.
- **Apostolic Succession:** Ensures continuity of the church's mission and teachings through ordained clergy.
- **Ecclesiology:** Understanding the church as the body of Christ, with each sacrament fortifying this identity.



# Theological Foundations

## Mystagogical Insights:

- **Visible Signs of Invisible Grace:**  
Each rite is a tangible manifestation of God's invisible work in the church and its members.
- **Spiritual Formation:** These sacraments guide the faithful in their spiritual journey, deepening their relationship with God.



# Theological Foundations

*“St. Paul’s epistles provide a theological framework for understanding the sacraments, emphasizing their role in the life of the church”*

*(Liturgical and Ritualistic Studies: Dr. Joseph Faltas).*





# Conclusion

## Integration:

- **Consecration:** Establishes a sacred space for worship.
- **Liturgy:** Facilitates communal and individual encounter with the divine mysteries.
- **Ordination:** Ensures the proper administration of sacraments and the continuation of apostolic ministry.



# Conclusion

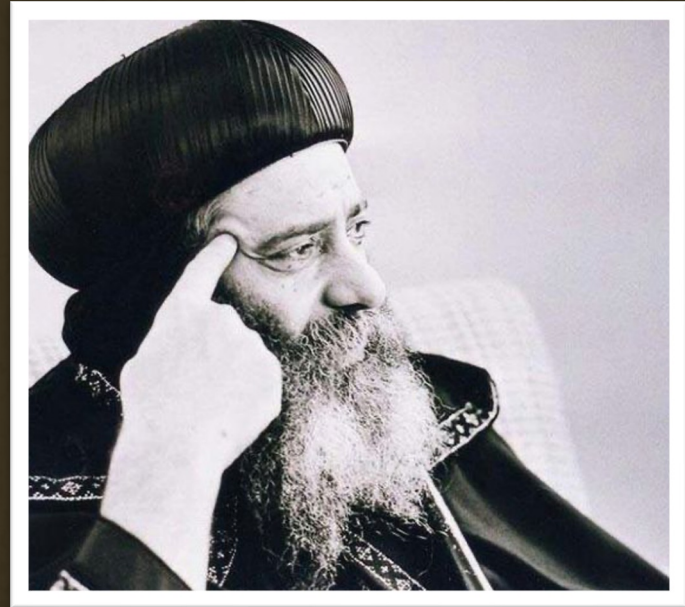
## Continuity :

- **Tradition and Modernity:** Balancing ancient practices with contemporary needs.
- **Ongoing Relevance:** These rites continue to be vital for spiritual growth and community cohesion in the Coptic Orthodox Church.



# Conclusion:

*Our minds make us tired when we accept the sacraments of the church. Our senses do also tire us. We need the simplicity of faith to believe all what Jesus Christ and the apostles said without discussion. (Life of Faith: Pope Shenouda III).*



# References



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# Q & A

**Thank You**

