

LIVING THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LIFE: PT I
“ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH”

From the Liturgy of St. Basil

“But when he disobeyed thee, the true God who had created him, and was led astray by the guile of the serpent and rendered subject to death through his own transgressions, thou didst banish him, in thy righteous judgment, O God, from paradise into this world, and didst turn him again to the earth from which he was taken, providing for him the salvation of regeneration, which is in thy Christ himself.”

From the Fathers

“If, however, anyone say, “What then? Could not God have exhibited man as perfect from beginning? . . . But created things must be inferior to Him who created them, from the very fact of their later origin; for it was not possible for things recently created to have been uncreated. But inasmuch as they are not uncreated, for this very reason do they come short of the perfect. Because, as these things are of later date, so are they infantile; so are they unaccustomed to, and unexercised in, perfect discipline. For as it certainly is in the power of a mother to give solid food to her infant, [but she does not do so], as the child is not yet able to receive more substantial nourishment; so also it was possible for God Himself to have made man perfect from the first, but man could not receive this [perfection], being as yet an infant.”

-Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.38.1

Memory Verse

“In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

- Ephesians 2:22

In Your Lives

Process of Initiation: Baptism (with Confession), Chrismation, Eucharist

- Baptism
 - Essential
 - Flexible
 - Adults and Children
- Chrismation: anointing, signifies receipt of the Holy Spirit
- Eucharist: completion of Initiation

In the Church

Three parts of Church Building: narthex, nave, bema

In Narthex

Entering the Nave

Approaching the Bema

Exiting the Church

Always enter and exit Church prayerfully!

For Further Reading

Schmemmann, Alexander. *For the Life of the World*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimirs, 2018.