

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

- The Synaxis (Commemoration of Saints)
- The Diptych (Intercession for the departed)
- The Fraction
- The Confession
- The Communion

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

- **The Synaxis (Commemoration of the Saints)**
- + **In it we remember all the saints as the Lord Jesus commanded concerning the woman who poured the perfume on His head.**
- + **It reflects the unity of the Church between those who are on earth and the departed.**
- + **It represents the 'cloud of witnesses' which surrounds the believers and to which the Apostle Paul referred to in Heb. 12:1-4.**

# **Commentary on Divine Liturgy**

- **The Diptych (Intercession for the departed)**
- + **It reflects the feeling of love and gratitude towards our beloved who departed.**
- + **When the Priest mentions the name(s) of the deceased he covers one hand with a napkin and puts one spoonful of incense into the censer.**
- + **Synaxis and Diptych are not prayed on Maundy Thursday.**

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

## End of Diptych and Pre-Fraction

- + After St. Basil's Diptych the priest says, "Lead us throughout the way into Your Kingdom ...", and ending with, "Peace be with you all" without doing the sign of the Cross.
- + The Eucharist Liturgy starts with a doxology, "Glory and honour..." and most befitting it ends with another doxology, "...that as in this so also in all things Your great and holy name be glorified..."

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

- **Pre-Fraction (Introduction to Fraction): “Again let us give thanks unto God Almighty...”**
- + **A prayer of thanksgiving to God, Who made us worthy to complete the Liturgy, and a plea that He may make us worthy to partake of the holy body and the precious blood of Christ.**
- + **The three sentences, "...the Holy Body...", "...the Honoured Blood...", and, "...belonging to His Christ the almighty our God...", are a continuation of the introduction to the Fraction.**

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

- **The Fraction**
  - + **A prayer of thanksgiving to God for His inexpressible gift, as He gave us His Holy Body and Honoured Blood as an eternal life to those who worthily partake of them.**
  - + **The most versatile part of the Liturgy, since we have various prayers for the various seasons and occasions.**
  - + **Ends with the Lord's Prayer-Priest's inaudible prayers...**

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

- **The Confession**
- + **Prayers before Confession: “The Holies for the Holy...”**

**As the priest calls the holy ones to receive the holy things, all the Congregation tremble. They respond; "One is the Holy Father. One is the Holy Son. One is the Holy Spirit. Amen." As if they are saying "There is One Sun that shines on all of us and pours Its own rays of holiness upon us.**

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

## The Confession, cont.

- + **The Confession is a declaration of faith stating what we believe about our faith. The priest lifts up the paten in both hands and says the Confession. The deacon follows by affirming the confession of faith.**
- + **As we hear the deacon's call, "Pray for the merit of partaking of these Holy, Pure and Heavenly Mysteries", we ought to lift our hearts to the Lord and beseech His blessings and His mercies on all those partaking, so that their communion fulfils the Lord's promise...**



# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

- **The Communion**
- + **It is of great importance that every partaker should approach the Sacraments in preparedness, repentance and confession, so that he does not take condemnation to him/herself (1Cor.11:27).**
- + **When the Lord ascended to heaven the disciples looked steadfastly towards heaven, even after He was out of their sight. We should do likewise after the Holy Communion...**
- +**Communion Praises**

# Commentary on Divine Liturgy

- **The Dismissal**

**The priest stands before the altar and dismisses the angel of the Sacrifice by sprinkling some of the water on the altar and sprinkling the rest upwards saying, "O angel of this offering who ascends to the highest with this praise, remember us before the Lord that He may forgive us our sins."**

- **Distribution of the Eulogia (Morsel of Blessing)**