



HOLY BAPTISM AND HOLY CHRISMATION

SACRAMENTS

- Means 'make it holy 'in Syriac.
- The sacred service instituted by Jesus Christ through visible means of service and deeds to obtain invisible grace of God to us is called a sacrament.
 - Jesus is the most important sacrament.
 - Sacraments are also referred as secrets as the revelation of God's plan for the salvation of mankind was hidden from the beginning of ages and was fulfilled through Jesus Christ in due time. We are rehearsing this through the worship ,commitment and praises that is in the liturgy of holy sacraments.

SACRAMENTS

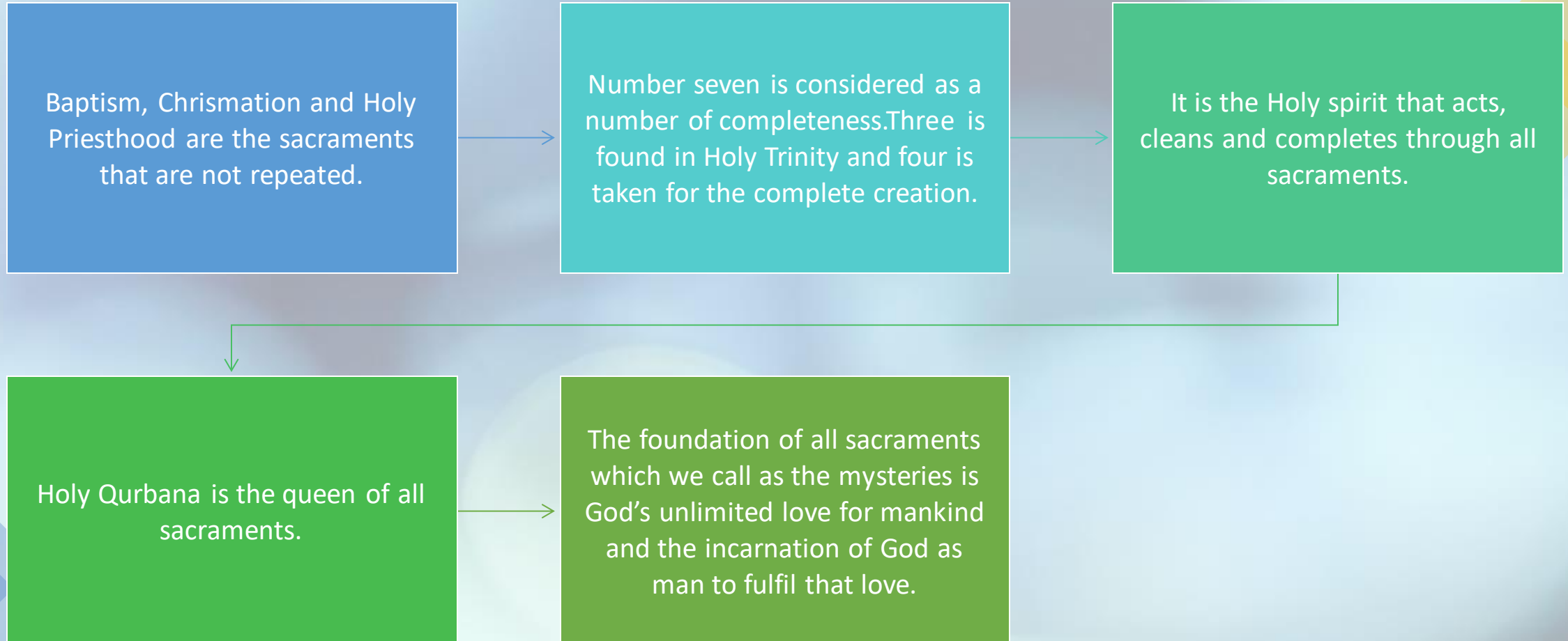
- In God's creation everything is good, and every object can be an object for sacrament. So it is impossible to say how many sacraments are there.
- It was officially declared that the number of sacraments is seven by the council of Trent at Rome(1545-1563).Due to western influence it is observed as seven in Orthodox church too.

7 Important sacraments of church



- HOLY BAPTISM
- CHRISMATION
- CONFESSION
- HOLY QURBANA
- PRIESTHOOD
- MARRIAGE
- HOLY UNCTION

Some more facts about sacraments



WHAT IS HOLY BAPTISM

Washing and
cleaning.

Entering a new life.

Rebirth from
heaven.

A drafting into the
body of Christ.

A partnership with
Jesus in his royalty
,priesthood and
prophet hood.

Remission of sins.

Salvation.

Dwelling of holy
spirit.

Robed with
unperishable
garment.

Freedom from sin,
death and laws
governing them.

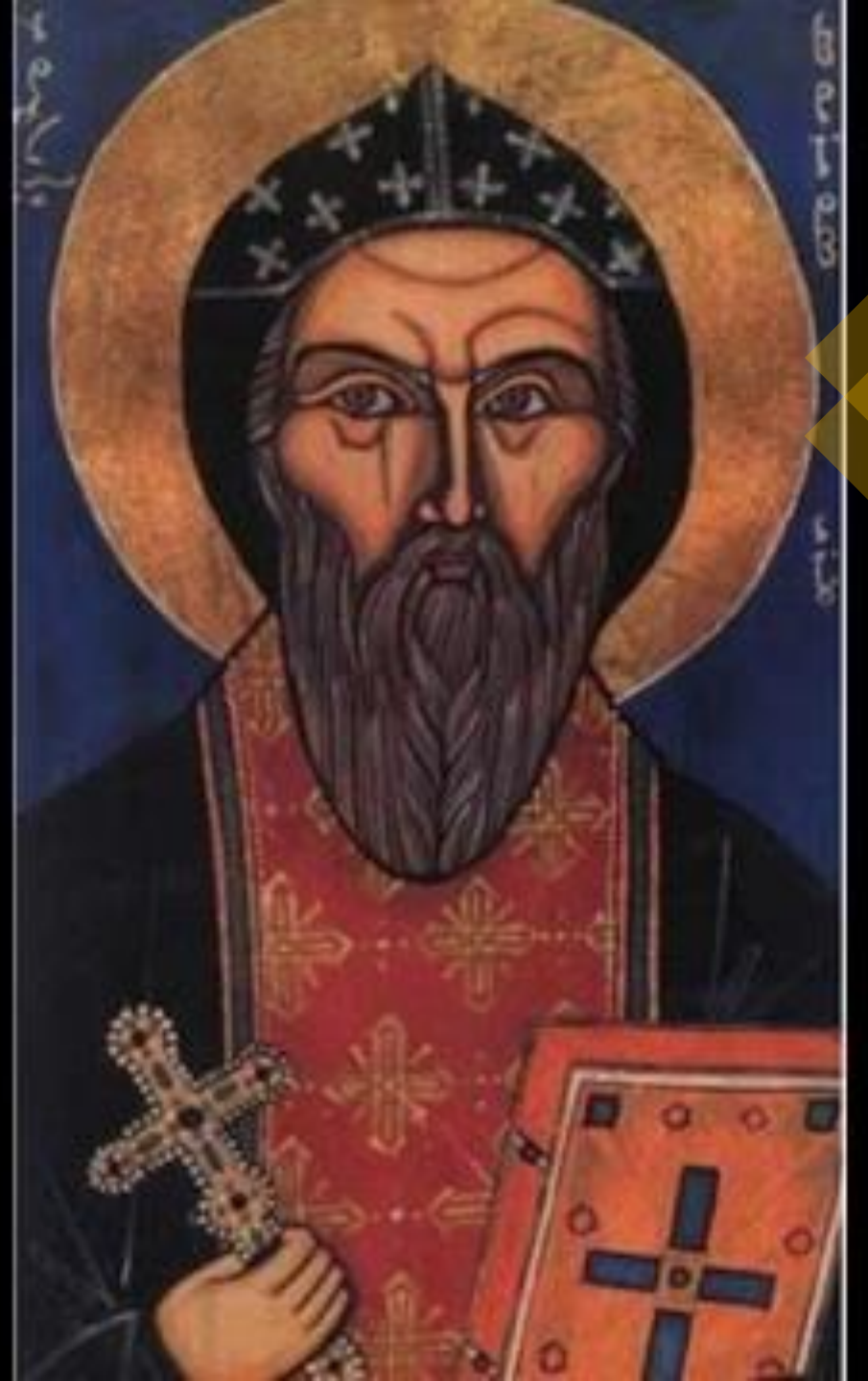
HISTORY

- Jews did circumcision on 8 days after birth
- Evidence of baptism existed among Jews in 1st century B.C. Baptism was advised for Gentiles who were converting to Judaism by disciples of Rabbi Hillel.
- In the place of the circumcision of Jews, Christians started Baptism.



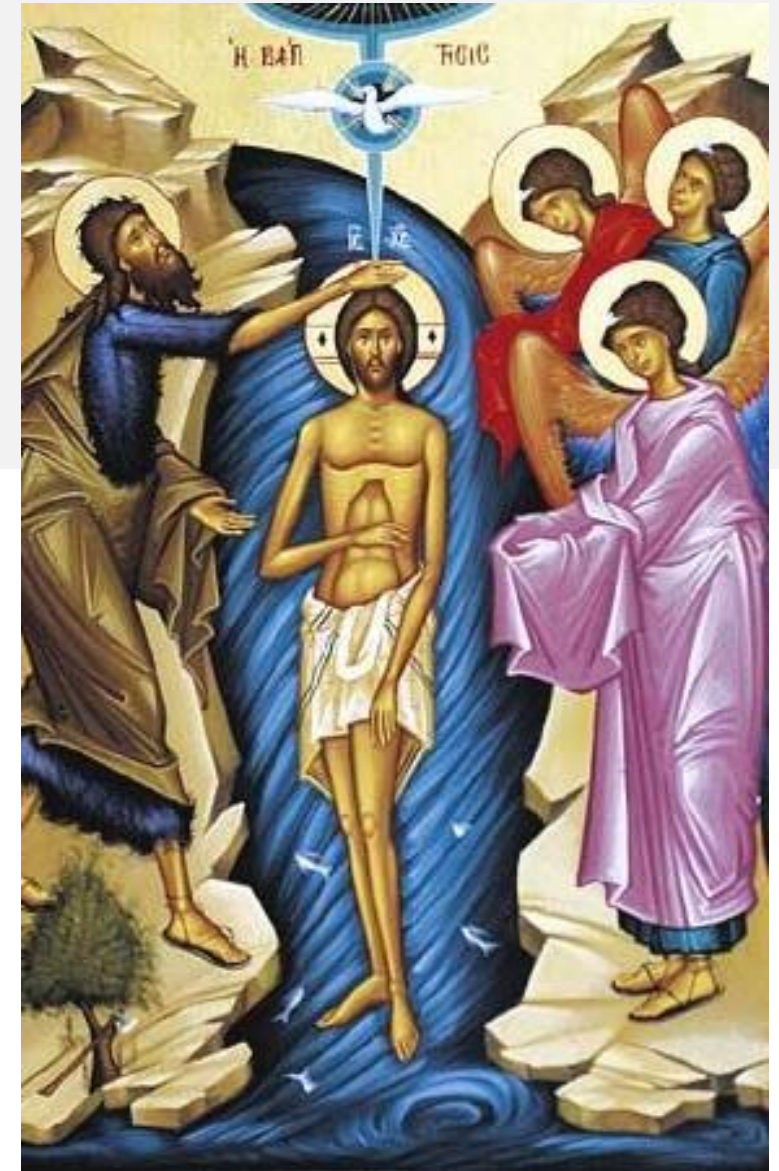
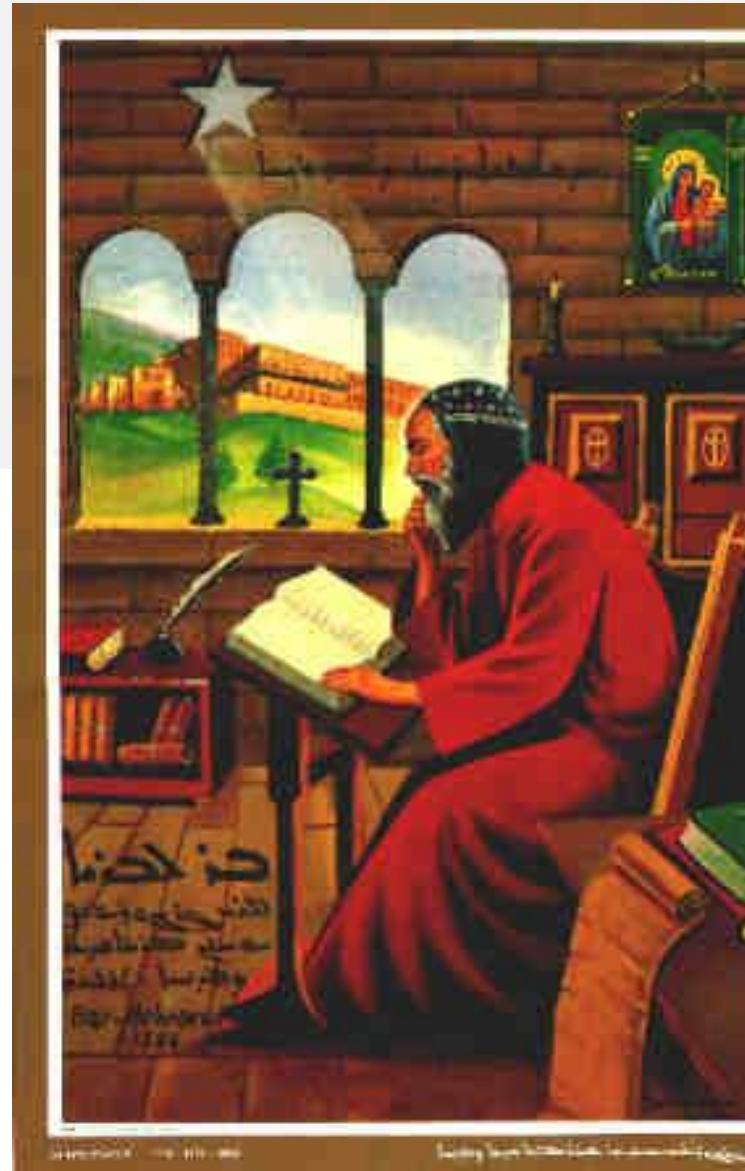
Author of the liturgy of Holy Baptism.
St. Severios of Antioch
(Severus of Antioch)

- Wrote the worship book of baptism in 538 AD in Greek and translated to Syriac by James of Edessa in AD 708.





The book we are using in Malankara Church was modified by Catholicos of the East, Mor Gregorios mar Ebraya in 13th century.



CONTENT OF LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Preparation
for receiving
Baptism.

Baptism

Holy
Chrismation

Receiving of
Holy Qurbana

PREPARATION-INTRODUCTORY PRAYER



Prayer of the main celebrant asking to make him eligible to celebrate this baptism in fire and spirit.



It is a prayer asking to grant salvation for the child who was born from a worldly mother to be born again from the new mother who is the church, through this sacramental worship of Holy Baptism.

SONGS

We sing different songs in Kukkilion for male and female children.

For male children - first part of 29 Psalms. It proclaims the power of holy spirit that hovers over the water. It's also an invitation to the candidate who is receiving baptism to dedicate himself to God for the glory of God.

For female child - Psalms 45:10-13. This Psalm was sung during wedding of Israel's king. It is a song that brings out the unbreakable relationship between Christ the bridegroom and the Church the bride.

PROMION AND SEDERA PRAYERS

In Promion prayers we are praising the Lord for instituting this Baptism to the church.

“We are praising the Lord who is the true light and who instituted the sacrament of Holy Baptism through his praiseworthy divine knowledge to sanctify his flock of sheep.”

SEDRA

- Intercessory prayer.
- Shows church as a manger,
- Lord as a shepherd and
- Baptism as a door to the manger.



READINGS

Describes salvation and its nature.

Reading from Epistles of Paul - Romans 5:20-6:4. This part makes it clear that through Baptism we are partakers of his death and resurrection, therefore an entrance into eternal life.

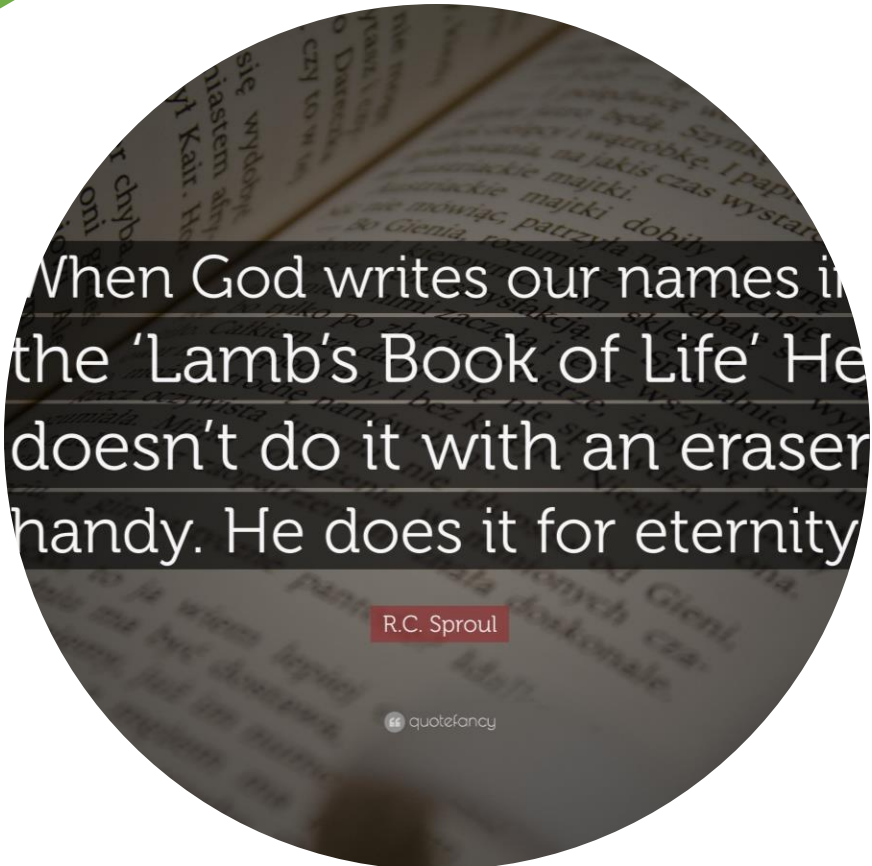
Pesgomo - beginning Halleluiah song is Psalms 51:7.

Evangelion reading is Luke 3:15-16 and John 3:5-6.



Writing the name of the child and godfather in the register.

- ‘Please write the name of this child who you called from darkness and wayward life into your real wisdom in your book of life, please count him/her among the people who worship you and reflect the light of your countenance in him/her.’



When God writes our names in the 'Lamb's Book of Life' He doesn't do it with an eraser handy. He does it for eternity.

R.C. Sproul

quotefancy

Insufflation by the priest on the baby's face.

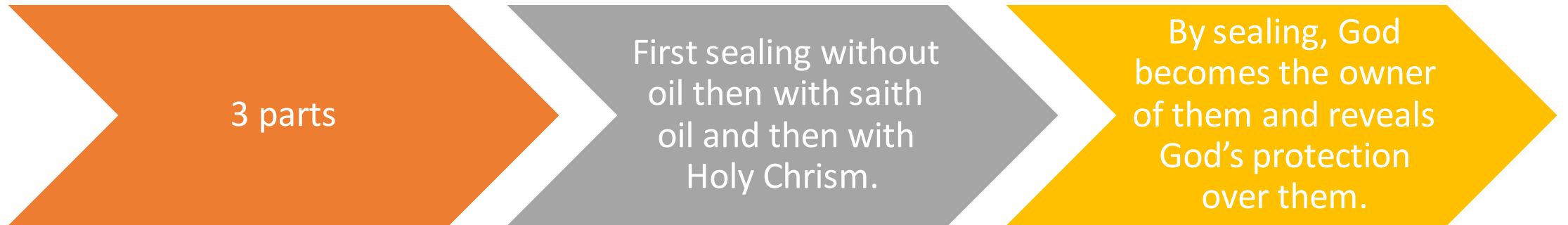
Symbolises the Holy Spirit that gives life and renews life into all creation.

Priest says please give him the same godly breath that your only son blew on his disciples.(John 20:22)

The child who died to sins receives the Holy Spirit through blowing the breath of life which prepares him for rebirth



SEALING THE FOREHEAD



Sealing the forehead

It is a petition to God to sanctify the candidate for God.

To renounce the crooked and proud Satan in the name of God Almighty.

Since God's name invokes fear, be alert about coming judgement.

The declaration that human body is God's temple and not the dwelling place of Satan.





GODPARENTS-ROLE

- Mediator stands for the child as representative of the Church.
- He is a spiritual guide and mentor for the child.
- He should have a deep-rooted faith in the Orthodox Church.
- Along with parents they have the responsibility of bringing up the child in good faith .

THE OATH

The godparent turns the face of the baby towards the west and says 'I (name) who is being baptized to renounce you, Satan, all your army, your angels, the fear of you and all your evil deceitful ways'.

West symbolizes authority of Satan and darkness.

By the word renounce, it means first we have to accept the reality of evil powers and then face it and know its powers and declare God's power destroy the powers of evil.

THE OATH

The oath of accepting Jesus Christ.

Keeping the face of baby towards east godparent says: "I(name) who is being baptized believe in you, Lord Jesus Christ, and in doctrines that you divinely revealed through saints, prophets, apostles and ancient fathers.

East symbolizes goodness and light.

Child who is baptized transferring himself from one master to another, Satan to Christ.

PART 2 –BAPTISM(TAKING BATH IN WATER)

1

Anointing the child with the blessed olive oil(oil of gladness-symbol of joy,peace and happiness).

2

Drafting us to the true olive tree,who is Jesus,we are being anointed with olive oil.

3

Blessing of water - priest calls in the Holy Spirit by celebrating with his hands.

A dramatic scene of Noah's Ark on a stormy sea. The ark is a large wooden structure with a dark roof, floating on dark, choppy water. The sky is dark and stormy, with a bright lightning bolt striking down from a glowing, fiery cloud. Several birds are flying in the sky. The overall atmosphere is one of divine judgment and salvation.

WATER SYMBOLIZES

- Death and salvation as we see in Noah's times, destruction of Pharaoh and army in the Red Sea etc..
- By blessing, water changes to a symbol of life and salvation, like water of Jordan sanctified by baptism of Jesus.
- Salvation of new Israel (Church) and defeat of Satan through baptismal water.

CEREMONIES FOLLOW

- The priest blows on water 3 times.
- Silent prayer calling the Holy Spirit celebrating his hand on water.
- Prayers and three times make sign of cross over the water.
- Celebrate Holy blessed oil Chrism and pour it on water in the form of a cross.





MEANING OF POURING HOLY CHRISM IN THE BAPTISMAL FONT

- Anointing with Holy Chrism is a sacrament of Holy Spirit.
- Just like beginning of creation we see the dwelling of Holy Spirit again at Jesus's baptism.
- It shows baptism is a rebirth. Being born of water and spirit.

LOWERING THE CHILD IN THE BAPTISMAL FONT AND GIVING BAPTISM

The priest makes the child to sit facing east in the baptismal font and he himself facing west and says:” in the hope of new life and redemption of sins,in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, the child is being baptized for eternal life”.

To remind that Jesus remained dead for 3 days baptism water is poured over in the name of God three times.

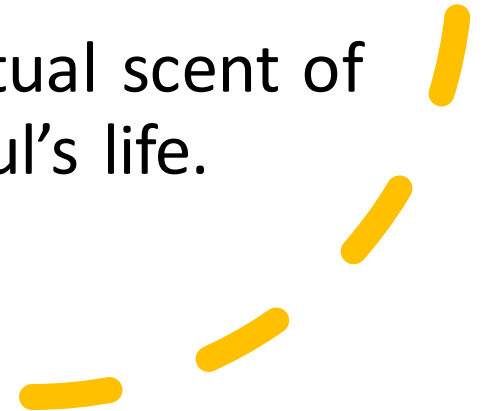
PART 3 HOLY CHRISMATION

- God sanctifies us from the original sin and slavery of Satan.
 - Prepare us for spiritual war.
 - Energizes the spiritual senses.
- Seal from Chrism is a symbol that we are also part of Lord's army.



SIGNIFICANCE OF ANOINTING AGAIN AFTER BAPTISM

- Signifies the completeness of rebirth through water and spirit.
- It's a symbol of fulfilment of all the good gifts of the Holy Spirit - acceptance as sons and daughters born again and redemption of sins.
- Through this anointing the spiritual scent of Jesus is spread in the faithful's life.



MEANING OF CORONATION.



It means that the child is now eligible to rule with Jesus in the Kingdom of God.

The crown is a gift given to a faithful who foresees God's glory in leading a life of martyrdom.

With the celebration of the crown, the child who received Baptism is being accepted among the other faithful as a person who is born again.

PART 4 RECEIVING THE HOLY QURBANA

Through participating in Holy Qurbana, the child completes the Holy Baptism and becomes part of the church.

The song that is sung while the child receives the Qurbana is "we are happily placing the fruit that Adam could not taste in paradise, into your mouth.."

The service ends with Hoothomo and Benediction.

REFERENCES

Janathakalude Prakasham (an elementary study of church, ministry and sacraments) ,Fr. Dr. K.M. George.

Jnana Bodhini - faith study of our church by H.G. Dr. Yuhannon Mar Thevadoras.

Web based articles.