

Instead, they remain among the faithful, participating as witnesses to the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, which they are journeying toward. This inclusion serves as a reminder that the Church embraces those who are still on the path of preparation, inviting them ever deeper into the life of Christ.

Additionally, I ask our clergy to offer the prayers for the catechumens audibly and in their rightful order during the Liturgy so that seekers, inquirers, catechumens, and the faithful can better understand their meaning and recognize our shared calling to participate in the life of Christ.

Things for Chanters and Choirs to Keep in Mind

Integral to our liturgical experience are the church musicians – our chanters and choirs. They impart to us our faith’s theological truth through beautiful melodies and hymns. They also help the faithful walk in unison by setting a steady rhythm and pace for our worship. They are urged to work collaboratively with the clergy to make the necessary adjustments to the hymnology.

Things for the Faithful to Keep in Mind

Every baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christian must regularly re-engage with their faith, continually learning and growing. We are all catechumens and neophytes in the sense that we can never exhaust the depth of our faith, nor cease to grow in the love and knowledge of God. By renewing this mindset, we experience God’s transformative grace in ever-deeper ways. I urge you seek ways to grow in your own faith as you offer prayers for those preparing for initiation into the Body of Christ.

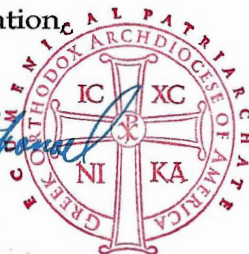
Beloved,

Change is never easy. It can make us uncomfortable, especially when it involves modifying practices to which we have grown accustomed. Yet, as St. Gregory the Theologian teaches, *The grace of the Spirit is in constant motion, and so must we be. Change is not the destruction of what was, but the fulfillment of what is to come* (Oration 2.22). The Church is a living body, not a museum. To pray for and embrace seekers and inquirers is not to betray our faith but to live it more fully.

With paternal love and admiration,



†NATHANAEL
Metropolitan of Chicago



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO