

With the blessing of bishop Ignatius of Vyborg and Priozersk



6+

Release 2





Man can endure a severe disease but he can barely endure meaningless life. Man is not an animal which is content when his physical needs are satisfied. Man feels the need to find his place in life, life's purpose and to understand relations with other people. We are not grains of sand but rather leaves on a tree. Each of us belongs to the common tree called mankind. We all have ancestors both physical and spiritual who gave us language, culture and, most importantly, faith that has rooted itself and with the mercy of God lives in our people. To lose touch with that past, with the ancestors means to dry out spiritually. We, Orthodox Christians, believe that human history unwraps a mysterious God's plan of world's salvation where epic historical events intertwine with lives of ordinary people. The Baptism of Rus accomplished by Saint Prince Vladimir is imbedded in lives of every one of us and it is important to understand it.

His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia





PART



Dnepr Christians after 866 AD



Collecting poliudie  
(tribute) Olga meets  
Christians for the first  
time.



She is struck by Christian  
peacefulness and law  
obedience.





Who are these people?

They are Christians, they believe in one God.



955 AD

Olga sets off for Greek lands  
and arrives to Tsargrad  
(Constantinople).

Caesar  
Constantine, the  
son of Lev, holds  
the throne.



Before meeting  
the basileus  
(monarch)

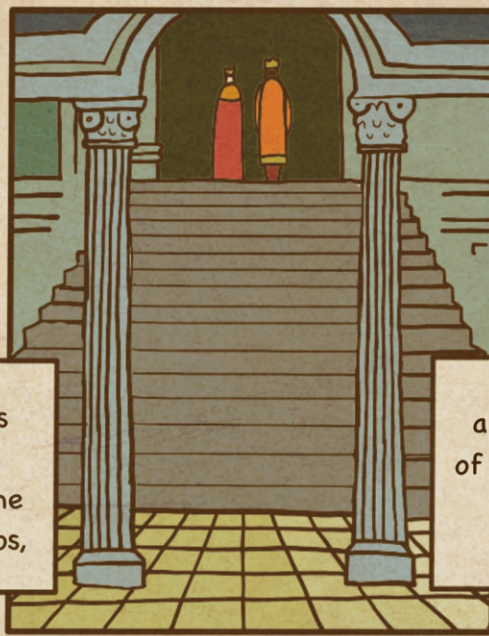
Princess Olga has a talk with  
Helena, a spouse of Constantine.







The Princess  
meets the  
basileus in the  
chrysotriklinos,



a throne room  
of the Boukoleon  
palace.



I am a pagan. If you  
want to baptize me, do it  
yourself. Otherwise I will  
not be baptized.



Byzantine bishops tell her about the Sacraments and  
mysteries of Christian faith.





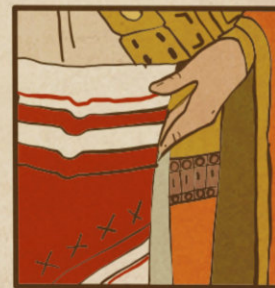
The Basileus  
and the  
Patriarch  
baptize her.

Being enlightened  
her soul is full of  
joy.



Blessed are you  
among Russian  
women, for you  
have forsaken the  
darkness and have  
loved the Light.

Russian people  
shall bless you in  
all the future  
generations.



Olga departs from  
Greek lands to Kiev.

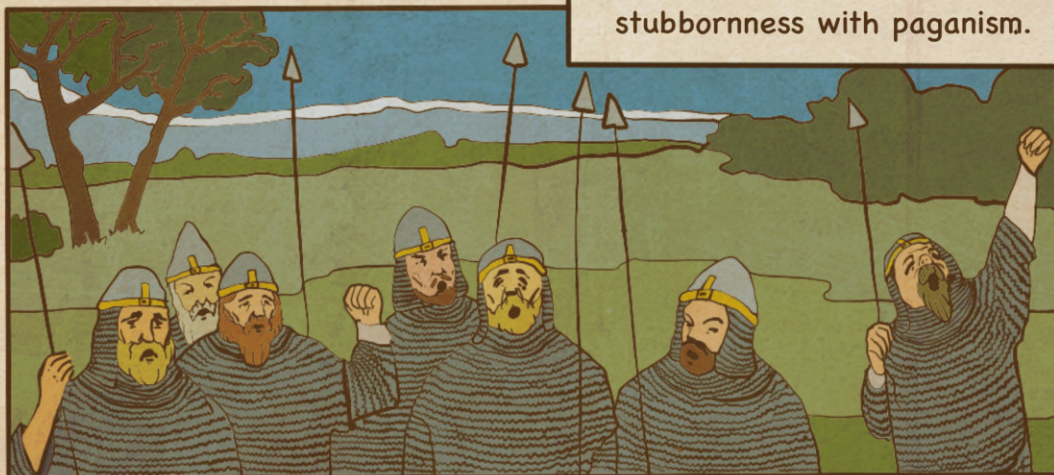


I have found God  
and I am happy. If  
you find him, you will  
be happy too.



I do not want to  
change my faith, my  
druzhina (squad)  
and I will abide the  
old tradition.

Druzhina supports the Prince's  
stubbornness with paganism.





Киев

Having become a Prince Svyatoslav appoints Yaropolk to rule in Kiev,

Oleg - to rule over Drevlians,

Древляны

Новгород

and through the mediation of posadnik (mayor) Dobrynya he appoints Vladimir as a Prince of Novgorod.

Svyatoslav sets off to the land of Bulgaria where he meets his death.

His abrupt death leads to a feud among his sons.



Vladimir wins the  
hard-fought feud.



Having become the Grand  
Prince of Rus he  
understands why his  
grandmother Olga the Wise  
has converted to  
Christianity'

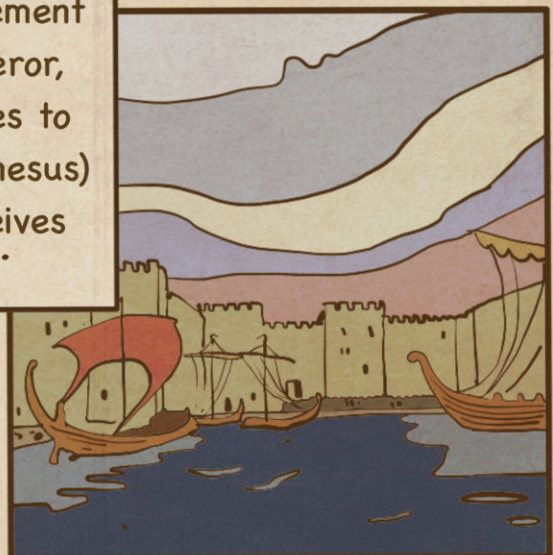
and he decides to  
be baptized. .



Vladimir sends a messenger  
to Emperor Basil II to  
convey his will to be  
baptized. .



Upon the agreement  
with the emperor,  
Vladimir arrives to  
Korsun (Chersonesus)  
where he receives  
baptism. .





Having returned to Kiev, Vladimir the Great orders to destroy cult figures of pagan gods and summons all the residents of Kiev to the Dnepr river so that they be baptized in its water. After that members of druzhina (prince's squad) start establishing churches in the cities of Kievan Rus, Christians start practicing their religion freely, and all the people start converting to Christianity.





Human history is a number of organically bound events where one follows the other. The previous events define the character and dynamics of development of the following ones. Certainly, we see the hand of God in the evolution of history and how creative power of God breathes through the whole of human existence in place and time as well as through any individual life. However, God created the world for people and with His Mercy and Love granted them free will and artistic freedom. God's hand in world's fate and people inhabiting it fulfills itself through human life. A man given such an honor bears a huge responsibility and has to possess exceptional qualities: intelligence and intuition, humbleness and will, charisma, cautiousness and courage should be combined in him. Yet, first of all, he has to be filled with zealous faith that imparts providential creativity to his thoughts and actions. Those who are worthy to be chosen, who overcome temptations and stay on the evidently right path become true historical figures. Their actions define the fate of people once put in their hands. Seeds they plant grow with ages into fruitful gardens caring for many generations. Memories about these personalities and their feats are genuinely inspiring and beneficial.

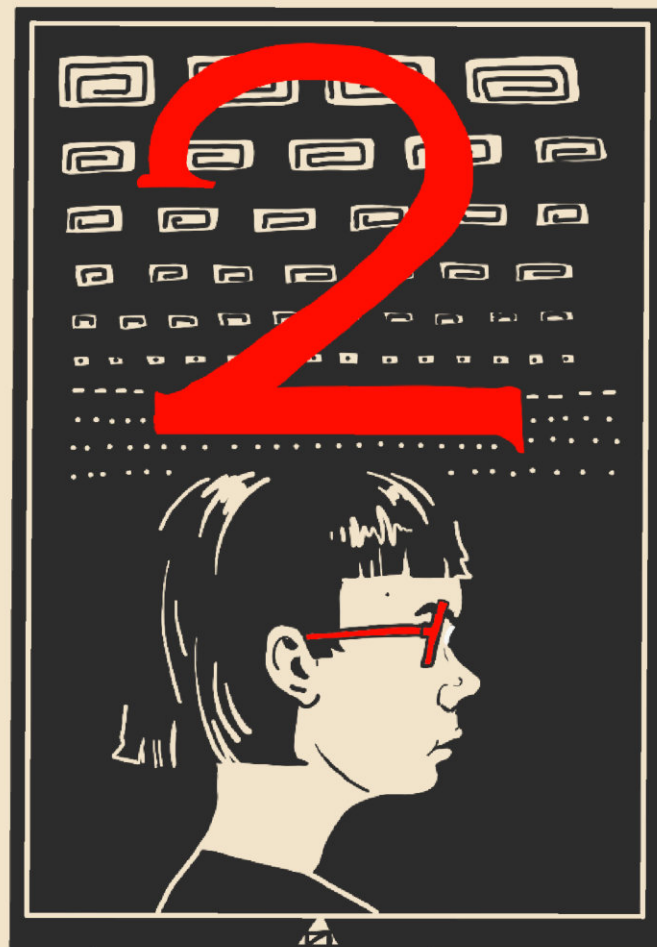
Apostle-like saints Princess Olga the Wise and Vladimir the Great are such historical figures. They devoted their lives to transforming Rus by converting to Christianity. Having been people of their harsh time they clearly saw the only saving path for Rus which, thanks to discovering the true faith, allowed the huge and unstable country to unite and, despite the challenges and temptations, become victorious. Orthodox Christianity shining with glory in Rus was the result of their passionate efforts. What saint Olga started was continued by her glorious grandson, saint Prince Vladimir, who led the Eastern European people to salvation through baptism!

The baptism of Rus was an episode that cannot be exaggerated as it would become life-changing for the following epochs. The tribes spread over valleys and forests of Eastern Europe entered through baptism the universe of Christian world that encompassed transformed values of ancient civilizations making their invaluable historical experience a part of their own. The baptism gave the Eastern European tribes a reasonable prospect of saving development in the scope of the Word of Truth. The baptism united the Slavs by the single faith which defined their common culture, semantic structures and behavioral stereotypes. Unity in faith, in Orthodox culture, in clear understanding of common historical purposes and fate happened to be much more influential than the political means used by the rulers who tried to bind together the lands from Ladoga in the north to the Black sea in the south. Rus would go through an ordeal: the internal wars caused by dynastic struggles, the disintegration of Kievan Rus into separate principalities, the attempts of invasions both from Asian East and European West. Inhabitants of Rus would face a lot of suffering. Severe and greedy world would ask for many sacrifices from them. Nevertheless, despite external circumstances, the unity brought to them by the baptism would keep on growing through ages and generations, would be preserved and strengthened, would unstoppably and persistently multiply the running out energy and heal the wounds that seemed to be fatal. The following unification of Rus was not unexpected: at the end of the 15th century the tribes and principalities united into one Orthodox Tsardom, the existence of which was a direct consequence of the Baptism and a visible triumph of the transforming power given by faith.

The history continues. New severe and treacherous historical challenges are inevitable. We must be always ready for them. There is no doubt, they would receive a fitting response, and everything would be overcome with the belief in the Word of Truth as Baptism carries out its saving act through ages and generations and 'if God is with us, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31).

Yurii Alekseevich Sokolov, historian





**Our time**



Our time. Homeroom. Class on "Techniques of spiritual safety (TSS)."



And now I am ready to answer your questions.

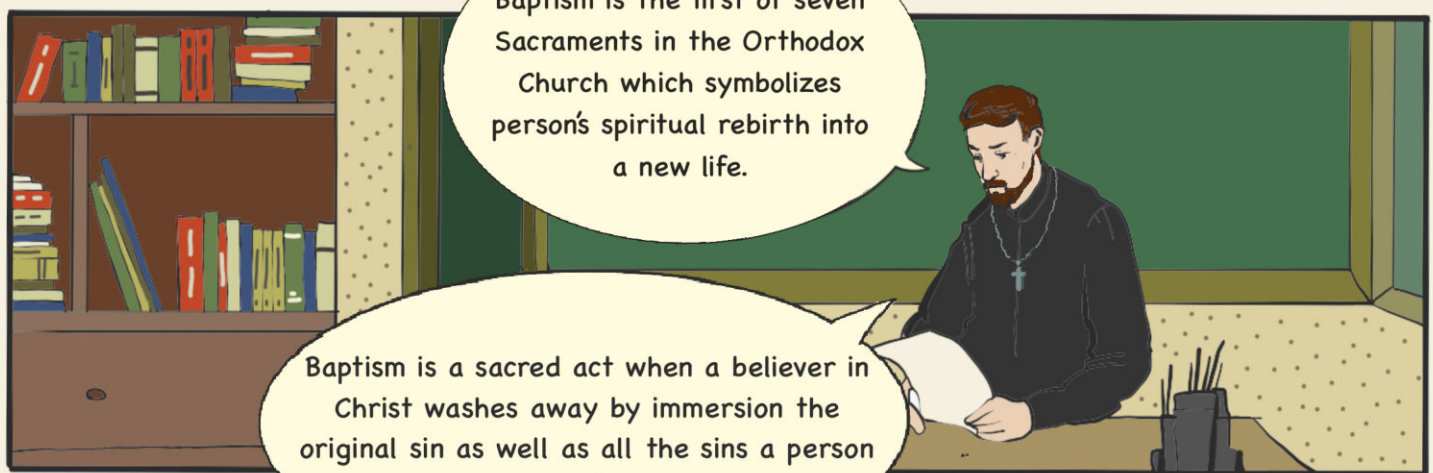
Dear students, I have told you about the Baptism of Holy Rus. In 1030, we celebrated its 1030th anniversary.

Today we are discussing personal acceptance of Holy Baptism.

КРЕЩЕНИЕ

1. Книга Деяния  
2. Книга Символ веры  
3. Книга Ветхого Завета









What would you tell  
parents of a baptized  
baby?

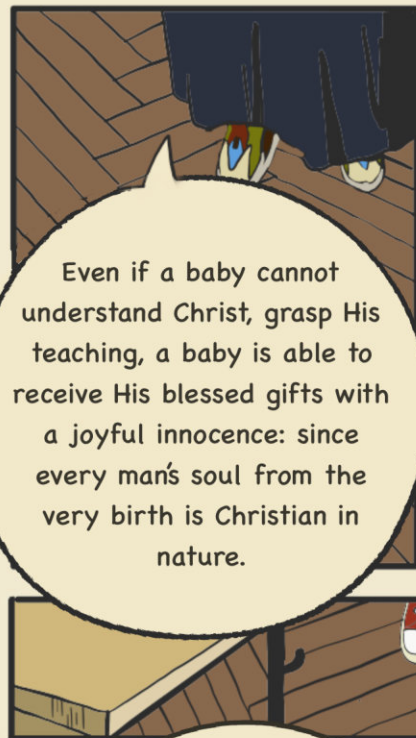
Through Holy Baptism parents plant a  
seed of eternal life in a baby's soul. They  
have to protect and cultivate the seed.  
The life they have given requires the  
fullness of salvation which is possible  
only through God. That is why parents  
may be considered to be God's helpers in  
reproducing not only a physical life but  
also a spiritual one!



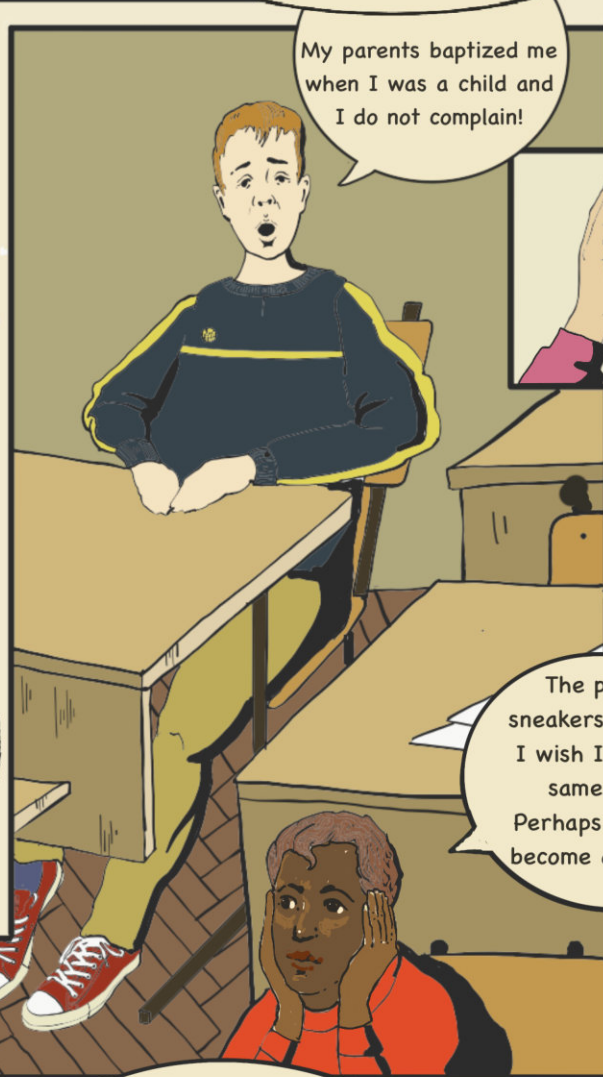


Some children are afraid of hospitals and do not want to go there, but their parents treat them even against their will. The Orthodox Sacraments, where the first one is Baptism, are spiritual treatment and the kind of spiritual food that is needed to children, although they do not realize it yet.

I think it is a person who should decide himself to be baptized or not and not his parents when he is still little.



Even if a baby cannot understand Christ, grasp His teaching, a baby is able to receive His blessed gifts with a joyful innocence: since every man's soul from the very birth is Christian in nature.



My parents baptized me when I was a child and I do not complain!



The priest's sneakers are cool. I wish I had the same ones! Perhaps I should become a priest...



You certainly know that that child is given godparents who are present in a church during the baptism. According to the rules, nowadays godparents should be interviewed by a priest before a child is baptized.

I am inviting everyone who would like to witness an interview happening soon to the youth center at our church!





Such a beautiful Orthodox outreach center in Koltushi.

It is simply a manor!

No, it is some embassy!

Ha-ha!

Hello, guys! I am happy to welcome you in our center! The interview with godparent will start soon.

Such talks have been conducted since 2012. We also hold the similar interviews before wedding ceremonies.

АКТОВЫЙ ЗАЛ

Ha-ha! Funny!

Back in the day grandma used to be a young woman.

In the past there were no such interviews.

*Не гонимы,  
Но наивы  
и подвижны*



The catechetical talk begins.

Who can be  
godparents?

And who cannot be  
godparents?

Grandmothers,  
grandfathers, brothers,  
sisters, friends,  
acquaintances can be  
godparents. They must be  
baptized believers.

Children before  
13 cannot be  
godparents.

What do you need  
to be baptized?

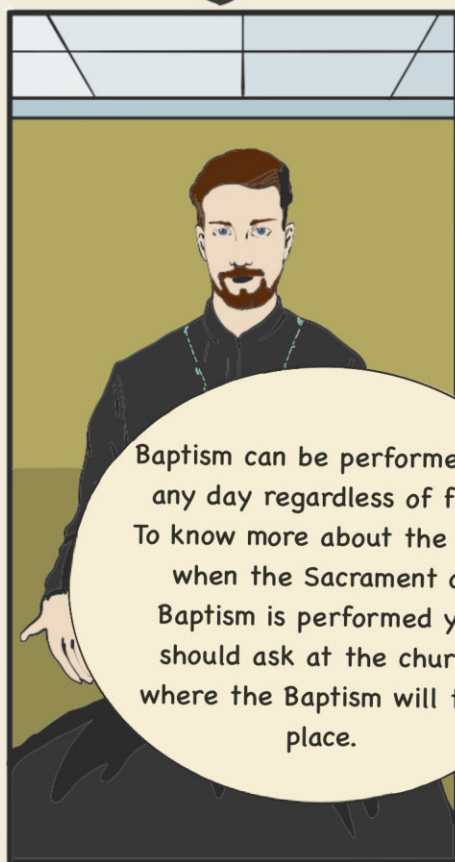
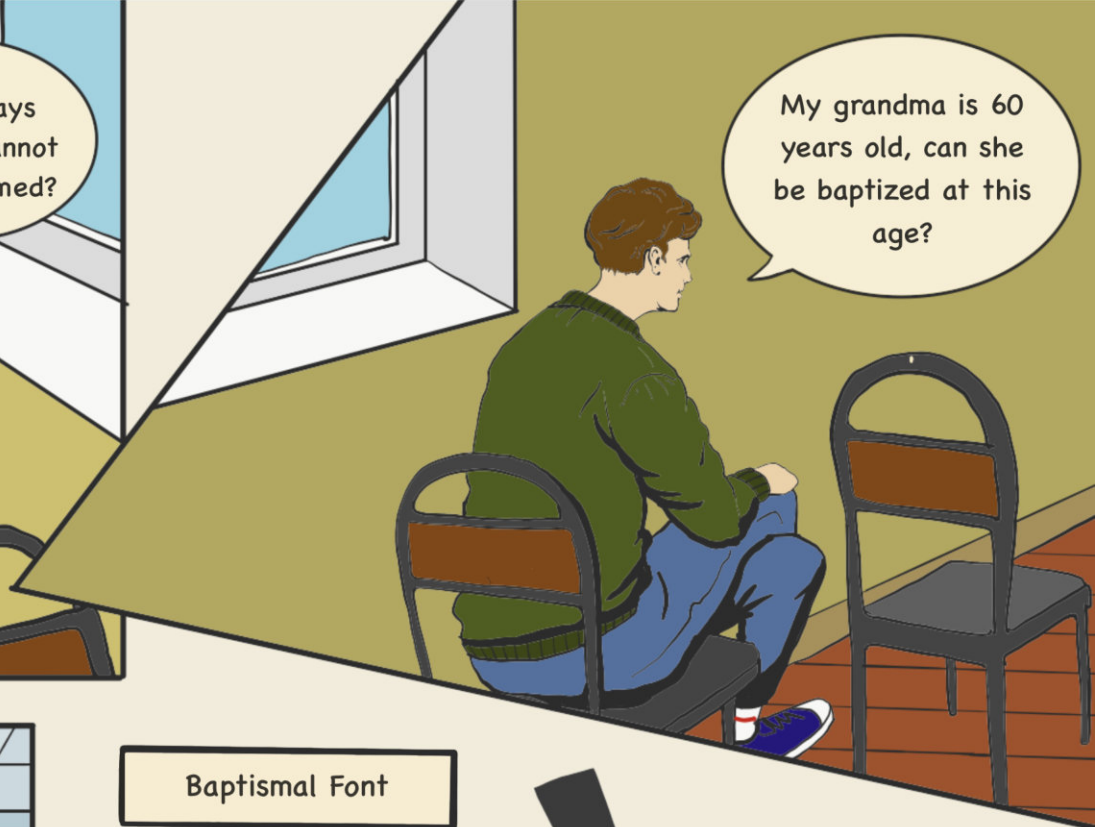
To receive Baptism a person  
needs to express a voluntary  
and conscious will to become a  
Christian based on his firm  
faith and sincere repentance.

Historical  
background

According to the ancient tradition, a person receiving baptism had to have only one godparent: male – for a man, female – for a woman. Godparent was called in Greek 'anadehomenos', i.e. 'guarantor for the debtor'. It is a legal term: any person is like 'debtor' to God and godparent vouches for him. The rule to have two godparents is a Russian tradition that spread only in the 14th century.



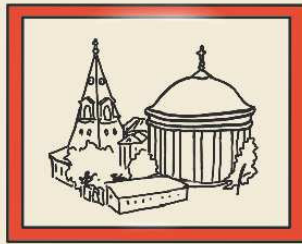
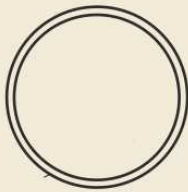




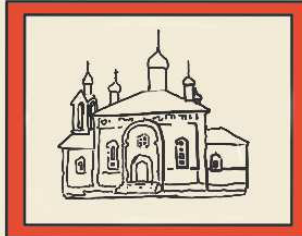
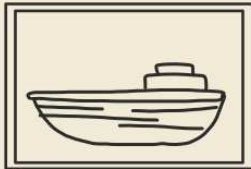
Baptismal Font



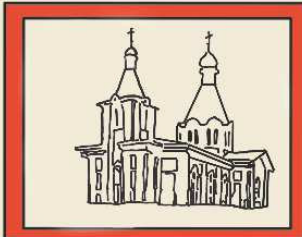
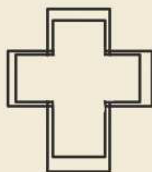




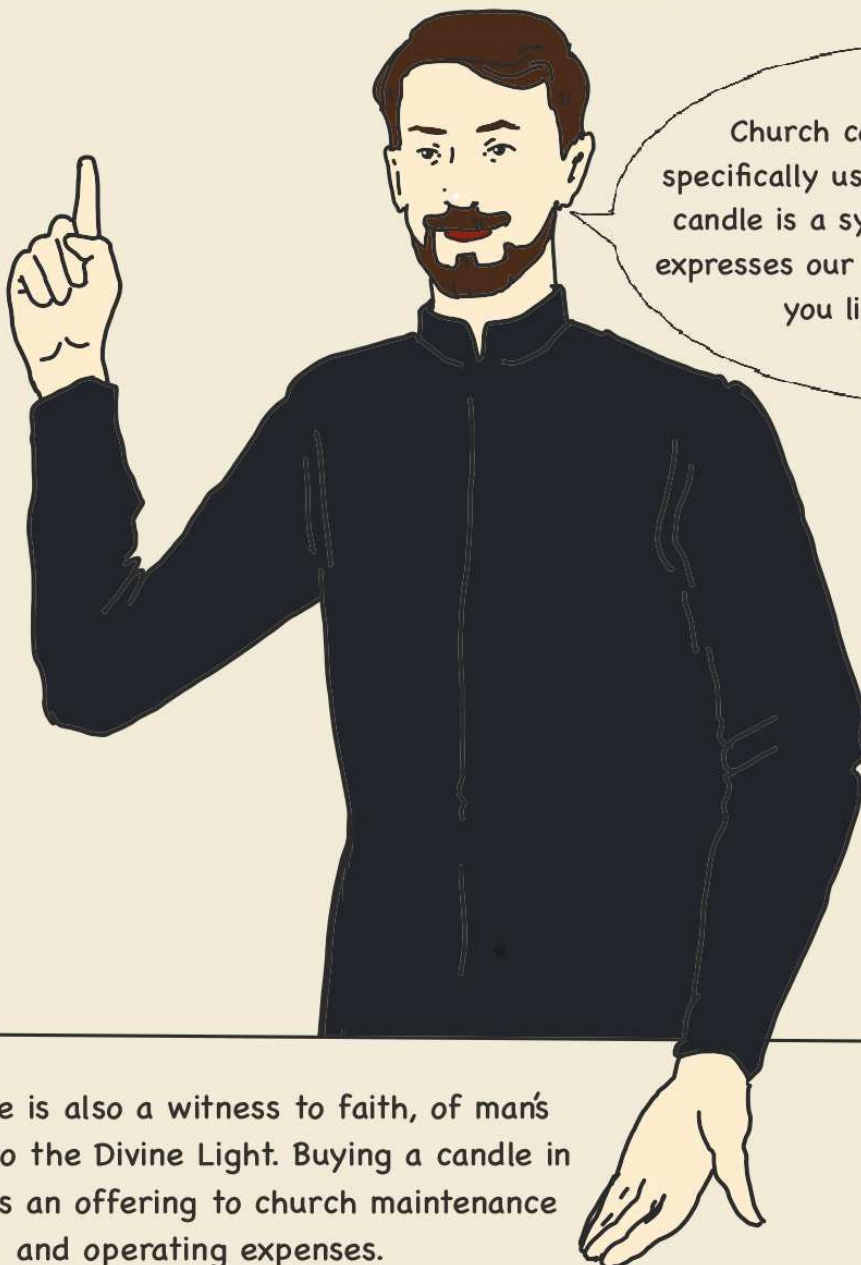
Churches of a circular shape (circle with no beginning and no end symbolizes eternity) represent a never-ending existence of Church.



Churches imitating the form of a ship are the most ancient church types symbolizing the ship that rescues believers from the stormy seas of life and carries them to the Kingdom of Heaven.



Churches in the shape of a cross were built to signify that the Christian Cross is the foundation of Church.



Church candle is meant to be specifically used in church. The lighted candle is a symbol, a visible sign that expresses our burning love for Him who you light a candle for.

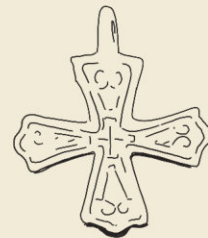


The candle is also a witness to faith, of man's belonging to the Divine Light. Buying a candle in a church is an offering to church maintenance and operating expenses.

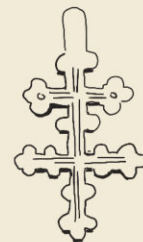




11th-13th century  
The four-pointed crosses



16th century  
The six- and eight-pointed crosses



17th century  
The classical eight-pointed crosses



The first mention of baptismal crosses is found in the Novgorod Chronicle in 1071.

The baptismal cross is a special 'personal' sacred symbol for any Orthodox Christian!

Since the first ages of Christian history, baptismal crosses have served as a prove for a man wearing it of his belonging to the Christian Church. After the Baptism of Rus, for a few centuries the faithful used to wear baptismal crosses over the clothes as a clear sign for everyone of their adherence to the Orthodox faith.





ВЫХОД

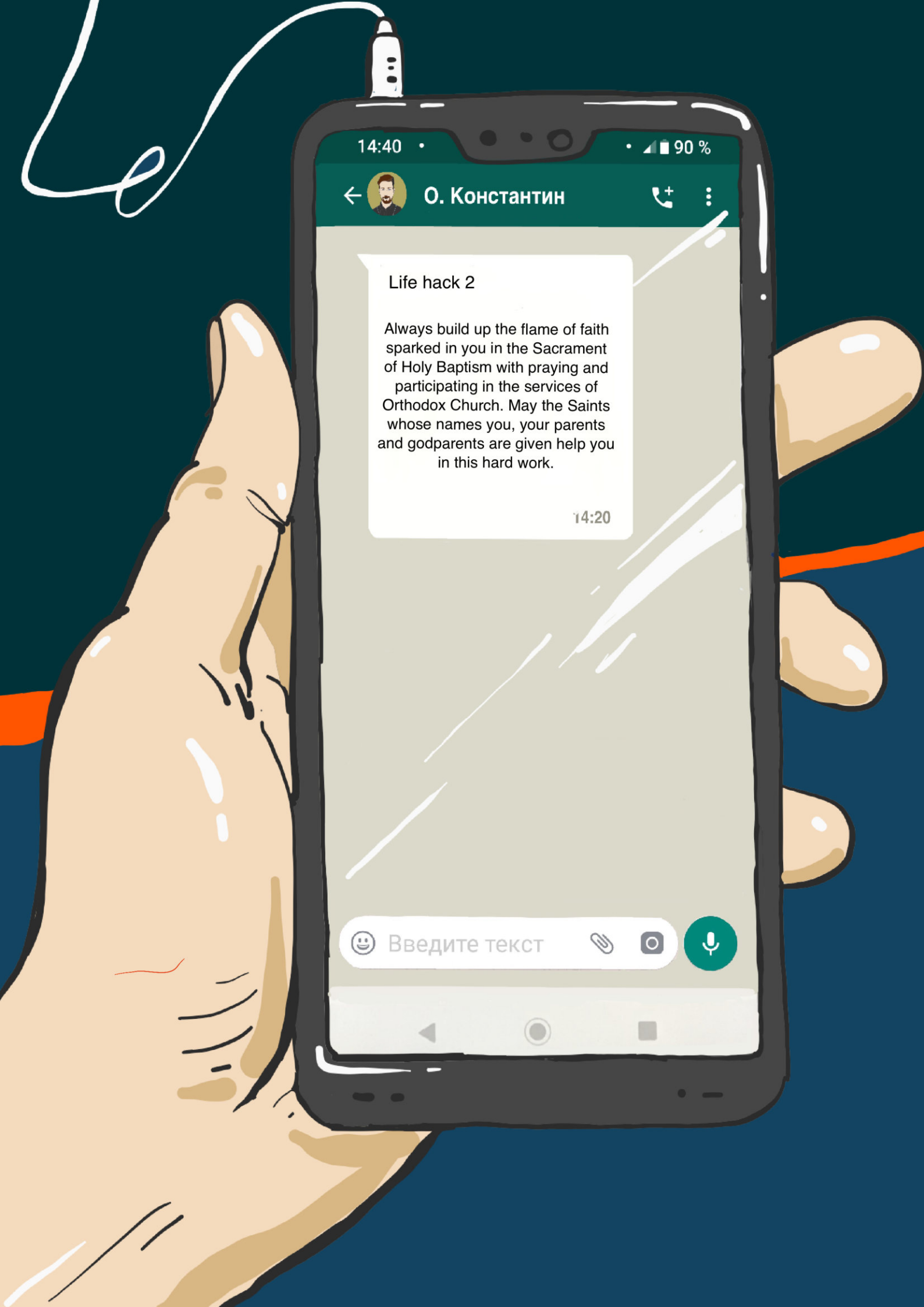
It was interesting.

Thank you all for your time. I was happy to see you.

And thank you.

Next time, we will talk about family. You are always welcome in our church!





14:40

90 %



О. Константин



### Life hack 2

Always build up the flame of faith sparked in you in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with praying and participating in the services of Orthodox Church. May the Saints whose names you, your parents and godparents are given help you in this hard work.

14:20



Введите текст







**Idea and script** - archpriest Artemii Litvinov, chairman of the Youth Affairs  
Department of the Vyborg eparchy

**Consultant** - Yurii Alekseevich Sokolov, historian

**Artists** - Yelizaveta Frolova, Ivan Andreev

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