

THE COMMON CUP

The Common Cup is in fact a vestige of at one time the bride and groom receiving Holy Communion

THE DANCE OF ISAIAH

The priest leads the bride and groom in a circle around a table expressing the eternal quality of marriage. The husband and wife are taking their first steps as a married couple, and the Church, in the person of the priest, holding the Gospel, leads them in the way they should walk. During the procession around the table, three hymns are sung; the Dance of Isaiah, a Hymn to the Martyrs and one praising Christ our Lord.

and holding them above the couple, says, "The priest, blessing the groom, says, "Be exalted, servant of God, (name), is crowned in marriage to O bridegroom, as Abraham, and blessed as Isaac, the handmaiden of God (name), in the name of the and increase as did Jacob, walking in peace and Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen." In working in righteousness the commandments of

The priest takes the rings and making the sign of the Orthodox Church, the mystery of marriage is a God." Blessing the bride he says, "And you, O the cross over the heads of bride and groom says, gift from God that endures beyond this life into the bride, be magnified as Sarah, and rejoice as did Rebecca, and multiply as did Rachel, rejoicing in your husband, fulfilling the conditions of the gospel; for this is well pleasing unto God."