The Wedding Ceremony in the Church

OrthodoxTHE MARRIAGE CEREMONY

THE COMMON CUP

The marriage or crowning ceremony begins The Crowning ceremony is followed by biblical The ceremony of marriage is a sacrament in theimmediately following the betrothal service. Thereadings on the sanctity of marriage. The presence Orthodox Church. Through the blessings of Christ, bride and groom are given candles to hold of Christ at the wedding of Cana declared marriage marriage becomes a means of participating in Orthodox Christians are given lit candles during as honorable. At the wedding, Christ changed the eternal life and God's Kingdom. Christ blesses andworship services as a way of expressing thewater into wine making the impossible, possible. unites the couple into one flesh and one mind. Hereception of Christ in one's life. The priest chants a The teaching is that by the grace of the Holy Spirit, leads them to live a life of faith, fidelity, truth andpsalm praising the joys of family life and thetheir life together shall be free from the limitations love. The marriage rite in the Orthodox Churchblessings of a fruitful union. of sin.

uses rings and crowns, each having special significance.

THE BETROTHAL & RINGS

THE JOINING OF THE RIGHT HANDS

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

The priest calls upon Christ to extend His handwhen both were Orthodox Christians. Parking of from heaven and to unite the couple, joining their Holy Communion incorporated their married life into

The rings are symbols of betrothal. A ring is aright hands together. This declares that the uniting the life of Christ. biblical sign of God's pledge and covenant within marriage is an act of God not man. The priest humankind. In the betrothal service, God Himself isreads the prayer: "Unite them in one mind, wedTHE DANCE OF ISAIAH

pledging His faithfulness, support and blessings tothem into one flesh, granting them a fruitful union."

the couple being betrothed. Christ becomes a co-worker in the betrothal and leads the couple in THE CROWNING: Symbols of Victory

life and faith. Christ blesses the giving of the rings

and oneness of mind.

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 in order to unite them and maintain them in peace One purpose of marriage is the salvation of the first steps as a married couple, and the Church, in couple and the integration of their married life into the person of the priest, holding the Gospel, leads

the life of Christ. Crowns are biblical symbols that them in the way they should walk. During the Through the placing of the rings of their hands, the express the triumph of life over death and enjoying procession around the table, three hymns are sung; couple is also pledging mutual faithfulness to the everlasting life in the kingdom of heaven. The holythe Dance of Isaiah, a Hymn to the Martyrs and

marriage. The exchanging of rings, done by martyrs received crowns of victory as the fruit of one praising Christ our Lord. spiritual sponsor or koumbaro(a), expresses thattaking up one's cross, dying to the world and

the couple is mutually committing faithfulness to becoming a witness of eternal glory. When the THE FINAL BLESSING

one another. There are no formal vows in the crowning takes place the priest, taking the crowns

service however, through the betrothal service theyand holding them above the couple, says, "The The priest, blessing the groom, says, "Be exhalted, have committed themselves to Christ and to oneservant 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 another to live faithfully forever. Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen." Inworking 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

"The servant of God (name) is betrothed to the everlasting Kingdom of God.

handmaiden of God (name) in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Rebecca, and multiply as did Rachel, rejoicing in your husband, fulfilling the conditions of the gospel; for this is well pleasing unto God."