



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE  
CHURCHES OF CHICAGO AND AFFILIATED MIDWEST REGIONS  
Πατριάρχης ἡρεμῆς καὶ ἰερῶν ἀποστόλων  
Μετὰ τὴν ἐπιτομήν καὶ τὴν ἑορτήν ἐπιπέμει εἰς τὴν ἀρκυδίαν

## Acknowledgment of Faith

We acknowledge our belief in One God, God the Father the *Pantocrator*, and his Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who took flesh and died and rose from the dead on the third day, and raised us with Him. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the *Paraclete*, Giver of Life, who is one in His *hypostasis*, proceeding from the Father, purifying the whole creation, and teaching us to worship the Holy Trinity. We believe in the resurrection of the body and in one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Orthodox Church.

We acknowledge that participation in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Repentance and Confession, are necessary to strengthen us to live our faith in a tumultuous world and to sustain our union with the Holy Trinity as children of the Father, members of the Son, and temples of Holy Spirit. We affirm that participation in the life and community of the Church through service is an essential part of our salvation.

We acknowledge that the purpose of marriage is for our edification and salvation. For this reason, marriage is permanent and monogamous. We affirm our belief in the great mystery of marriage as described in the Holy Scriptures and the teaching of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church as described by the following passages:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies...For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. – Eph. 5:25-32

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. – Eph. 5:22-24

'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." ...And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." – Matt. 19:5-6,9

We hereby acknowledge that we have read, understood, and agree to this Statement of Faith.