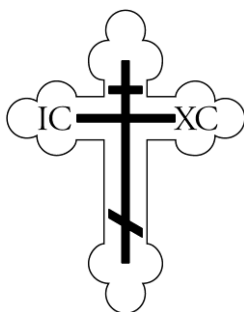


# HOLY CHRISMATION

## Miriam (Diana) Skaff



Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church  
Ames, Iowa  
Sunday, December 15, 2019  
*(Saturday evening, December 14, 2019)*

## Reception into the Catechumenate

*The priest, vested in stole comes out of the Sanctuary and goes to the vestibule of the Church where the sponsors with the candidate await him.*

**Priest:** Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

**People:** Amen.

*The priest breathes gently in the face of the candidate. He makes the Sign of the Cross over the candidate and lays his right hand upon the candidate's head.*

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** In Your Name, O Lord of truth, and in the Name of Your Only-begotten Son, and of Your holy Spirit, I lay my hand upon Your servant, *Miriam*, who has been found worthy to flee unto Your holy Name, and to take refuge under the shelter of Your wings. Remove far from *her her* former delusion, and fill *her* with the faith, hope and love which are in You; that she may know that You are the only true God, with Your Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and Your Holy Spirit. Enable *her* to walk in all Your commandments, and to fulfill those things which are well-pleasing unto You; for if a man do those things, he shall find life in them. Inscribe *her* in Your Book of Life, and unite *her* to the flock of Your inheritance. May Your holy Name be glorified in *her*, together with that of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Your life-creating Spirit. Let Your eyes ever regard *her* with mercy, and let Your ears attend to the voice of *her* supplication. Let *her* rejoice in the works of *her* hands, and in all *her* generation; that she may render praises to You, may sing, worship and glorify Your great and exalted Name always, all the days of *her* life.

For all the Powers of Heaven sing praises unto You, and Your is the glory, of the Father, and of

the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

### **First Exorcism**

**Priest:** The Lord puts you under ban, O Devil: He Who came into the world, and made His abode among men, that He might overthrow your tyranny and deliver men Who also upon the Tree did triumph over the adverse powers, when the sun was darkened, and the earth did quake, and the graves were opened, and the bodies of the Saints arose; Who also by death annihilated Death, and overthrew him who exercised the dominion of Death, that is you, the Devil. I charge you by God, Who revealed the Tree of Life, and arrayed in ranks the Cherubim and the flaming sword which turns all ways to guard it: be under ban For I charge you by Him who walked upon the surface of the sea as if it were dry land, and laid under His ban the tempests of the winds; Whose glance dries up the deep, and Whose command makes the mountains melt away. The same now, through us, puts you under ban. Fear, begone and depart from this creature, and return not again, neither hide yourself in *her*, neither seek to meet *her*, nor to influence *her*, either by night or by day, either in the morning or at noonday; but depart hence to your own infernal abyss until the great Day of Judgment which is ordained. Fear God Who sits upon the Cherubim and looks upon the deeps; before Whom tremble Angels and Archangels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Authorities, Powers, the many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim; before Whom, likewise, heaven and earth quake, the seas and all that they contain. Begone, and depart from this sealed, newly-enlisted warrior of Christ our God. For I charge you by Him Who rides upon the

wings of the wind, and makes His Angels spirits, and His ministers a flaming fire: Begone, and depart from this creature, with all your powers and your Angels.

For glorified is the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

## **Second Exorcism**

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** God, holy, awesome and glorious, Who is unsearchable and inscrutable in all His works and might, has foreordained for you the penalty of eternal punishment, O Devil. The same God, through us, His unworthy servant, commands you, with all your hosts, to depart from *her* who has been newly sealed in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our true God. Wherefore I charge you, most crafty, impure, vile, loathsome and alien spirit, by the might of Jesus Christ, Who has all power, both in heaven and on earth, Who said to the deaf and dumb demon, "Come out of the man, and in nowise enter a second time into him:" Depart! Acknowledge the vainness of your might, which has not power even over swine. Call to mind Him Who, at your request, commanded you to enter into the herd of swine. Fear God, by Whose decree the earth is established upon the waters; Who has made the heavens, and has set the mountains with a line and the valleys with a measure; and has fixed bounds to the sands of the sea, and a firm path upon the stormy waters; Who touches the mountains and they smoke; Who clothes Himself with light as with a garment; Who spreads out the heavens like a curtain; Who covers His exceedingly high places with the

waters; Who has made the earth so sure upon its foundations, that it shall never be moved; Who gathers the water of the sea and pours it out upon the face of the whole earth: Begone, and depart from *her* who has made *herself* ready for Holy Illumination I charge you by the redeeming Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His precious Body and Blood, and by His awesome Coming-again; for He shall come, and shall not tarry, to judge the whole earth; and He shall chastise you and all your host with burning Gehenna, committing you to outer darkness, where the worm does not cease and the fire is not quenched.

For of Christ our God is the dominion, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

### **Third Exorcism**

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Lord of Sabaoth, the God of Israel, Who heals every malady and every infirmity: Look upon Your servant; prove *her* and search *her* and root out of *her* every operation of the devil. Rebuke the unclean spirits and expel them, and purify the works of Your hands; and exerting Your trenchant might, speedily crush down Satan under *her* feet; and give *her* victory over the same, and over his unclean spirits; that, having obtained mercy from You, she may be made worthy to partake of Your heavenly Mysteries;

And may ascribe unto You glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

## A Fourth Prayer

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Lord and Master, Who created man in Your own likeness, and bestowed upon him the power of life eternal; Who also does not despise those who have fallen away through sin, but provides salvation for the world through the incarnation of Your Christ; Do You, the same Lord, delivering also this Your creature from the bondage of the enemy, receive *her* into Your heavenly Kingdom. Open the eyes of *her* understanding, that the illumination of Your Gospel may shine brightly in *her*. Assign to *her* life an Angel of light who shall deliver *her* from every snare of the adversary, from encounter with evil, from the demon of the noonday, and from evil thoughts.

*The Priest then breathes gently in the form of a cross over the mouth, brow, and breast, saying three times:*

Expel from *her* every evil and unclean spirit which hides and makes its lair in *her* heart. (3x)

**Priest:** The spirit of deceit, the spirit of evil, the spirit of idolatry and of every covetousness; the spirit of falsehood and of every uncleanness, which operates through the prompting of the devil. And make *her* a reason-endowed sheep in the holy flock of Your Christ, an honorable member of Your Church, a consecrated vessel, a child of the light and an heir of Your Kingdom, that having lived in accordance with Your commandments, and preserved inviolate the seal, and kept *her* garment undefiled, she may receive the blessedness of the Saints in Your Kingdom.

*The sponsors with the candidate turn about and face the West, with their backs to the priest. The priest then asks the following question three times:*

**Priest:** Do you renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his angels, and all his service, and all his pride? *(Three times)*

*And each time the sponsor, or the candidate if an adult, answers:*

**Sponsor(s):** I do renounce him!

**Priest:** Have you renounced Satan? *(Three times)*

*And each time the sponsor, or the candidate if an adult, answers:*

**Sponsor(s):** I have renounced him!

*Then the priest says:*

**Priest:** Breathe and spit upon him!

*The sponsors with the candidate now turn about back to the East, and they stand facing the priest. The priest asks them three times:*

Do you unite yourself to Christ? *(Three times)*

*And each time the sponsor, or the candidate if an adult, answers:*

**Sponsor(s):** I do unite myself to Christ.

*Then the priest asks another question:*

**Priest:** Have you united yourself to Christ?

**Sponsor(s):** I have united myself to Christ.

**Priest:** Do you believe in Him?

**Sponsor(s):** I believe in Him as King and God.

## **The Symbol of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered,

and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the Prophets. And in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*After the Creed, the Priest makes the following inquiry three times:*

**Priest:** Have you united yourself to Christ? *(Three times)*  
*The candidate (or Sponsor) responds each time:*

**Sponsor(s):** I have united myself to Christ.

**Priest:** Bow down before Him.

**Sponsor(s):** *(bowing)* I bow down before the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

**Priest:** Blessed is God, Who desires that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

## Prayer

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Master, Lord our God, call Your servant, *Miriam.*, to Your holy Illumination, and grant to *her* that great grace of Your holy Baptism. Put off from *her* the old man, and renew *her* unto life everlasting; and fill *her* with the power of Your Holy Spirit, in the unity of Your Christ; that she may be no more a child of the body, but a child of



Your Kingdom. Through the good will and grace of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

## **The Order of Holy Chrismation**

**Priest:** Blessed are You, O Lord God Almighty, Source of all good things, Sun of Righteousness, who sheds forth upon them that were in darkness the light of salvation, through the revelation of Your only-begotten Son and our God; and Who has given unto us, unworthy though we be, blessed purification through hallowed water, and divine sanctification through life-creating Chrismation; Who now, also, has been graciously pleased to regenerate Your servant that has newly received Illumination, by water and the Spirit, and grant unto *her* remission of sins, whether voluntary or involuntary. Do You, the same Master, compassionate King of kings, grant also unto *her* the seal of the gift of Your holy, and almighty, and adorable Spirit, and participation in the holy Body and precious Blood of Your Christ. Keep *her* in Your sanctification; confirm *her* in the Orthodox faith; deliver *her* from the evil one, and from all his workings. And preserve *her* soul in purity and righteousness, through the saving fear of You; that she may please You in every word and deed, and may be a child and heir of Your heavenly Kingdom.

For You are our God, the God Who shows mercy and saves us; and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

*The priest dips his fingers (or the brush) into the Holy Chrism and anoints the newly- baptized person, tracing the Sign of the Cross on the forehead, the eyes, the nostrils, the lips, on both ears, the breast, the hands and the feet, and saying each time:*

**Priest:** The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen

*The priest leads the Sponsors and candidate in a circular procession around the center tetrapod. Everyone sings:*

**All:** As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia! (3x)

## **The Prokeimenon**

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** Peace be with you all.

**Reader:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the third tone:

The Lord is my Light and my Savior, whom shall I fear?

**People:** The Lord is my Light and my Savior, whom shall I fear?

**Reader:** The Lord is the defender of my life! Of whom shall I be afraid?

**People:** The Lord is my Light and my Savior, whom shall I fear?

**Reader:** The Lord is my Light and my Savior...

**People:** ...whom shall I fear?

## **The Epistle**

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

**Reader:** *(Romans 6:3-11)* Brethren: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried

therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For He who has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. The death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Priest:** Peace be unto you, reader.

**Reader:** And with your spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**People:** Alleluia! *(x3)*

## **The Gospel**

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all

**People:** And to your spirit.

**Deacon:** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

**People:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

**Deacon:** Let us attend!

**Priest:** *(Matthew 28:16-20)* Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of

the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**People:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

## **Rites of Ablution and Tonsure**

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O You Who, through holy Baptism, has given unto Your servant remission of sins, and has bestowed upon *her* a life of regeneration: Do You, the same Lord and Master, ever graciously illumine *her* heart with the light of Your countenance. Maintain the shield of *her* faith unassailed by the enemy. Preserve pure and unpolluted the garment of incorruption with which You have clothed *her*, upholding inviolate in *her*, by Your grace, the seal of the Spirit, and showing mercy unto *her* and to us, through the multitude of Your mercies.

For blessed and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

## **A Second Prayer**

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Master, Lord our God, Who through the Font bestows heavenly illumination upon them that are baptized; Who has regenerated Your newly-baptized servant by water and the Spirit, and has granted unto *her* remission of *her* sins, whether voluntary or involuntary. Lay Your almighty hand upon *her* and preserve *her* by the power of Your goodness. Maintain, unassailed, the earnest of the Spirit, and make *her* worthy of life everlasting, and of Your favor.

For You are our sanctification, and unto You do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

**Priest:** Peace be with you all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads unto the Lord.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** He (*she*) who has clothed *herself* in You, O Christ our God, bows also *her* head with us, unto You. Keep *her* ever a warrior, invincible in every attack of those who assail *her* and us; and make us all victors, even unto the end, through Your incorruptible crown.

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us; and unto You do we ascribe glory, together with Your Father Who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

*The priest then dips the sponge in water and sprinkles candidate, saying:*

**Priest:** You are justified. You are illumined. You are sanctified. You are washed: in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.

*With the sponge the priest washes the oil and Chrism from the face, the head, the breast and all the other places, saying:*

You are baptized. You are illumined. You have been Chrismated. You are sanctified. You are washed: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen

## **The Tonsure**

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Master, Lord our God, Who has honored man with Your own image, You have fashioned him from a reason-endowed soul and a comely body (for the body serves the reason-endowed soul). For You set the head on high, and endowed it with the primary portion of the senses, which, nevertheless, impede not one another; and You have covered the head with hair, that it be not injured with the changes of the weather, and has fitly joined together all his members, that with them all he may give thanks to You, the Great Creator. You, the same Master, through Your chosen vessel, the Apostle Paul, hast given us a commandment that we should do all things to Your glory. Bless, now, Your servant, *Miriam*, who is come to make a first offering shorn from the hair of *her* head, and likewise *her* Sponsor; and grant that they may all exercise themselves in Your law, and do those things which are well-pleasing in Your sight.

For You are a merciful God, Who loves mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

**Priest:** Peace be with you all.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads unto the Lord.

**People:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** O Lord our God, through the fulfilling of the baptismal font, Who, by Your goodness, sanctifies them that believe on You. Bless this your handmaid here present, and let Your blessing descend upon *her* head. And as You blessed David the King by the hand of Your Prophet Samuel, bless also the head of Your

servant, *Miriam*, by the hand of me, a sinner, inspiring *her* with Your Holy Spirit; that as she increases in stature, and even unto a ripe full age, she may ascribe glory unto You, and behold the good things of Jerusalem all the days of *her* life.

For unto You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

*Taking the scissors, the Priest cuts the hair of the candidate in the form of a cross, saying:*

**Priest:** The handmaid of God, *Miriam*, is tonsured: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen

### **The Augmented Litany**

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we pray You, hearken, and have mercy.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan *Tikhon*, for His Eminence, our Archbishop *Alexander*, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities and for the armed forces.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and remission of sins for the handmaid of God *Lydia*, the Sponsor, and for the newly-chrismated handmaid of God, *Miriam*.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

**Deacon:** That she may be kept in the faith by a pure confession, in all godliness, and the fulfilling of the commandments of Christ, all the days of *her* life.

**People:** Lord, have mercy. (3x)

**Priest:** For You are a merciful God, Who loves mankind, and unto You do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**People:** Amen

### **The Dismissal**

**Priest:** Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You!

**People:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, Bless.

**Priest:** May Christ, our true God, through the prayers of His all-pure Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of *the Holy and Righteous Miriam*, heavenly patron of the newly-illuminated servant of God, *Miriam*; of *the Holy Ancestors of Christ* whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loves mankind.

**People:** Amen

**Priest:** Grant, O Lord, a prosperous and peaceful life, health, safety, and furtherance in all things, unto the newly-christated *handmaid* of God, *Miriam*, and to *her* Sponsor and family, and to all those here gathered, and preserve them for many years.

**People:** God grant you many years! (3x)