



**"Unless the Lord build the house,
they labor in vain that build it."**

(Psalm 126.1a LXX)



Saint Athanasius

ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America

The Most Blessed Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the OCA

The Most Reverend Archbishop Nikhon of Boston,

Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the South

**Service for the
Founding of a Church**

~ and ~

Groundbreaking

Lime Lane/Village Parkway/Peachtree Street

Nicholasville, Kentucky

Saturday, August 10, 2013

Program

Vespers at 6:30pm

Rite of Groundbreaking at 7pm - Please follow along on pages 3 - 27 in this booklet.

Welcoming Remarks and Introduction of Special Guests

Reverend Father Justin Patterson,
Pastor of St. Athanasius

Special Guests

- ★Tom Smith, Project Architect
- ★The Honorable Peter Sutherland
Commissioner, City of Nicholasville
- ★The Honorable Russ Meyer
Mayor, City of Nicholasville
- ★The Honorable Robert Damron
Kentucky State Representative
- ★The Right Reverend Bishop Mark of Baltimore

Reception Hosted by The St. Elizabeth Sisterhood of
St. Athanasius Orthodox Church

The Parishioners of St. Athanasius wish to thank everyone who came out tonight to share in this milestone event with us!

**Please sign our guestbook
before you leave!**

Founding of the Church Temple: The Groundbreaking

Upon arrival at the place where will be the Founding, they lay upon a table prepared beforehand the book of the Holy Gospels and the Cross, the fonts for blessed water and holy oil. The blessing brush and extra bowls for holy water may be placed on the table as well.

The bishop censes this table three times in crosswise form.

Deacon: Master, bless!

Bishop: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

*The bishop censes the book of the Holy Gospels,
as the clergy sing the following.*

People: O Heavenly King,
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere and fillest all things,
Treasury of blessings
and Giver of life:
Come, and abide in us,
and cleanse us from every impurity, //
and save our souls, O Good One.

*The bishop censes the perimeter, where the Founding will be,
beginning with the main wall of the Altar, and proceeding against
the sun, until he comes back to the place whence he began. Then he
censes the clergy and people and again the book of the Holy Gospels.*

Picture of New Church

Special Recognition and Thanks

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
(*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us, Lord cleanse us from our
sins. Master pardon our iniquities. Holy God visit, and heal
our infirmities for thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and
ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy
kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as
we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever,
and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come let us worship and fall down before God our King.

Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King
and our God.

Come let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ,
our King and our God.

- ❖ St. Athanasius Parishioners and Benefactors
- ❖ Parish Council and Building Steering Committee
- ❖ The Diocese of the South of the OCA
- ❖ Our sister parishes in Lexington
- ❖ Farmers Bank
- ❖ A private lender for financing Phase I construction
- ❖ County and City Officials
- ❖ St. Elizabeth Sisterhood
- ❖ His Grace Bishop Mark

Many Years to
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon,
His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon,
His Grace, Bishop Mark,
The President of our Country,
The Governor and Civil Authorities of our Commonwealth,
The Mayor and Civil Authorities of our City,
All our local brethren clergy and laity ,
All the benefactors and parishioners of our parish,
All our neighbors and friends in this community.

Mortgage Burning!

Psalm 142 LXX

Reader: O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in thy truth; hearken unto me in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all thy works, I pondered on the creations of thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto thee; my soul thirsteth after thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt thou quicken me. In thy righteousness shalt thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in thy mercy shalt thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And thou shalt cut off them that afflict my soul, for I am thy servant.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

The Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: For *His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon, for His Grace, our Bishop Mark, the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people*, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: For this country, its president, the civil authorities and those who serve in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: For this city and every city and country, and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray that He will appoint for this holy work a Guardian Angel against every evil circumstance, delivering them from the hindrance of enemies both seen and unseen, and defending and strengthening the workers; and let us all say: O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Bishop: Hear us, O God our Savior, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are off upon the sea, and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, on us sinners, and have mercy on us, and upon the founders of this holy church. For Thou art a merciful God and the Lover of Mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

And immediately he that presides pronounces the Dismissal appropriate to the church.

ages, the glory of Thy most-holy Name, and Thy Bloodless, rational Sacrifices may be offered up and fulfilled to Thee unceasingly without any hindrance, by Thine Orthodox people, for with Thee, all things are possible. And unto thee do we send up glory, together with Thine Onlybegotten Son, and Thy Most-holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

All stand.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice—after each petition*)

Deacon: Again we pray for *His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence, our Archbishop Nikon, His Grace, our Bishop Mark*, and for all our brethren in Christ.

Deacon: Again we pray for this country, its President, for all those in civil authority, and for those who serve in the armed forces.

Deacon: Again we pray that the Lord our God will hear the voice of our supplication, and will bless the work of our hands; and let us all say: O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Deacon: Again we pray for the Godfearing founders of the church named in honor of *St. Athanasius the Great of Alexandria*, which has been begun and is to be built to the glory of God, and for the obtainment of assistance for their holy work, and for their health, salvation, and remission of their sins, and let us all say: O Lord, hearken and have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will look mercifully on this place chosen for the foundation on it of a church to the glory of His most-holy Name, and will bless it with His heavenly blessing, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will bless this good intention and work of His servants the people of this Parish, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will bless the beginning of founding this building, and that its foundation may be successfully laid, to the glory of His Name, and that it be continued speedily, without hindrance, to its conclusion, by the power, operation and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will grant assistance in all things to the workers laboring thereon, direct the work of their hands, and bring it to a speedy conclusion, by the power, operation and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will prosper, with all abundance, this good labor of His servants, by the power, operation and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will appoint to this work and its workers His Guardian Angel, who shall invisibly repel all adverse assaults of enemies, both seen and unseen, and that in everything He will grant assistance and wisdom for its construction, and strength for its completion, by the power, operation, and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due 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.

strengthen the laborers, preserving them unharmed from every evil thing; and preserve these foundations indestructible and immovable, and bring this Thy temple speedily to completion, that unceasingly therein, with all-exalting hymns and doxologies, and Bloodless Sacrifices, we may glorify and sing the praises of Thee, our only True God. For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be unto all.

People: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Again and again, on bended knees, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

All kneel.

Bishop: We praise Thee, O Lord God of Hosts, our Savior, that because of the great multitude of Thy goodness and love for mankind, Thou hast chosen and sanctified this place, and hast founded upon it a church to the glory of Thy most-holy Name, through us, Thine unworthy servants. Therefore, having bowed the knees of our souls and bodies, we humbly beseech Thee:

Be well-pleased that there be founded on this place an altar for the offering up on it of the Bloodless Sacrifice of the most-holy Body and precious Blood of Thy Christ, to Thy glory and to the salvation of our souls. And do Thou speedily bring to completion by Thy divine might, this temple and this altar, which now have received a beginning, that in it and on it, even to the end of the

For the Lord has chosen Sion; He has chosen her for His habitation:

This is My rest unto ages of ages; here will I dwell, for I have chosen her. Blessing, I will bless her pursuit; her poor will I satisfy with bread; her priests will I clothe with salvation, and her saints shall rejoice with gladness. There will I make to spring up a horn for David; I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed one. His enemies will I clothe with shame; but upon him shall My holiness flourish.

And when he has come to the place where he began to sprinkle, he stops and stands facing east. At the conclusion of the Psalm, he and all the clergy sing:

Clergy: O Heavenly King,
the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,
Who art everywhere and fillest all things,
Treasury of blessings
and Giver of life:
Come, and abide in us,
and cleanse us from every impurity, //
and save our souls, O Good One.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Lord our God, Who hast condescended... to found for Thyself a church: Do Thou mercifully accept those who bring to Thee Thine own of Thine own, for the erection to Thy glory of the temple founded in honor and memory of *the Holy Hierarch and Father Athanasius the Great of Alexandria*. Bestow upon them the multitude of Thy heavenly and earthly good things; grant bodily health and spiritual salvation unto all that shall lend their help in the building and completion of this temple;

God is the Lord (Tone 2)

God is the Lord; and has revealed Himself to us, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 1: O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for his mercy endureth forever.

God is the Lord; and has revealed Himself to us, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 2: All nations compassed me about, but in the Name of the Lord will I have kept them back.

God is the Lord; and has revealed Himself to us, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 3: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

God is the Lord; and has revealed Himself to us, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 4: The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

God is the Lord; and has revealed Himself to us, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Troparia

Of the Founding (Tone 2)

O God, Fashioner and Creator of all things,
speedily guide aright with Thy blessing the
work of our hands,
which we have begun unto Thy glory,
and through Thy might quickly bring it to fulfillment, //
for Thou alone art Almighty and the Lover of Mankind.

Of the Patron of the Church (St. Athanasius, Tone 3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

O holy Father Athanasius,
Like a Pillar of Orthodoxy,
Thou didst support the Church with thy teachings,
Refuting the heretical nonsense of Arius,
By insisting that the Father and the Son are
equal in essence,
O venerable Father,
beg Christ our God to
grant us his great mercy.
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion for Transfiguration (Tone 7)

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ God,
Revealing thy glory to the disciples as far as they could bear it,
Let thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners,
Through the prayers of the Theotokos,
O Giver of Light, glory to thee!

vigor and abundance of health, and assistance in all things
for the completion of the work begun to Thy glory. For
Thou art the God of mercy, and compassion, and lover
for mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory,
together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and
Thy Most-holy, Good, and Lifegiving Spirit, now and
ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

*And he goes toward the east and sprinkles the fourth part of
the foundation, saying:*

Bishop: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm 132 LXX

Reader: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness; how he
swore an oath unto the Lord, and vowed unto the God
of Jacob: I shall not enter into the abode of my house,
nor go up upon the couch of my bed; I shall not give
sleep to mine eyes, nor slumber to mine eyelids, nor rest
to my temples, until I find a place for the Lord, a
dwelling-place for the God of Jacob. Behold, we have
heard of it in Ephratha; we have found it in the fields of
the wood. Let us enter into His tabernacles, let us
worship at the place where His feet have stood. Arise, O
Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the ark of Thy holiness.
Thy priests shall clothe themselves with righteousness,
and Thy saints shall rejoice. For the sake of David, Thy
servant, turn not away the face of Thine anointed one.
The Lord has sworn in truth unto David, and will not
renounce it: Of the fruit of thy loins will I set upon thy
throne. If thy sons will keep My covenant, and these My
testimonies which I shall teach them, their sons also
shall sit upon thy throne for ever.

*Then he goes toward the south and sprinkles
the third part of the foundation, saying:*

Bishop: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm 122 LXX

Reader: I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet have stood in thy courts, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is built as a city whose parts are joined together. For there the Tribes went up, the Tribes of the Lord, the Testimony of Israel, to give praise unto the Name of the Lord. For there are set thrones for judgment, thrones for the house of David. Ask now for the things which are for the peace of Jerusalem, and abundance for them that love thee. Let peace be in thy strength, and abundance in thy tower walls. For the sake of my brethren and my neighbors, I spoke peace concerning thee; for the sake of the House of the Lord our God, I have sought good things for thee.

*Having come to the southern side, he that presides stands
with his face to the south. After the Psalm is finished:*

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Clergy: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who didst come from the south for our salvation, and didst reveal Thyself as holy from the overshadowed Virgin Mount, and didst dwell among men: Do Thou look mercifully, we pray Thee, on the faithful of the temple, the building of which has been started in Thy Name, and bless them in all things; and give them strength and steadfastness, together with

Psalm 50 (LXX)

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy, according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned, and done evil in Thy sight, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the secret and hidden things of Thy wisdom Thou hast made manifest to me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn away Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; in whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness,

with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

While the Psalm is being read, two vessels are placed on the table, one containing pure water and the other containing oil. At the conclusion of the Psalm, the following Troparion is sung three times, in tone 6, samoglas (like "O Heavenly King.")

People: Send down Thy grace from Heaven,
O Giver of Life,
and sanctify this water, //
and show it to be a purification of all uncleanness

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O God greatly-exalted, Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who alone workest wonders that cannot be numbered, Whose voice is on the many waters and beholding Whom the waters are afraid, the deeps are troubled, and great is the roar of the water, Whose way is in the sea, Whose path is in the many waters and Whose footsteps are not known, Who, through the Baptism of Thine Only-begotten Son Incarnate, through the Descent upon Him of the Most-holy Spirit in the form of a dove, and through the voice of Thee, the Father, didst sanctify the streams of Jordan: We, Thine unworthy servants now humbly pray unto Thee and beseech Thee: Do Thou send the grace of the Most-holy Spirit upon this water, and by Thy heavenly blessing, bless, purify, and sanctify it, and grant it the grace and blessing of Jordan, and the power that purifies all uncleanness, heals every infirmity, and drives away demons and all their assaults

When the Psalm is finished, he that presides shall stand at the northern foundation, facing to the north.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Clergy: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Lord our God, Who hast made the North and the Sea, and all things; Whom heaven and earth are not able to contain; Who didst condescend to have for Thyself on earth a Temple for the perpetual praise of Thy most-holy Name: Humbly falling down before Thee, we entreat of Thy love for mankind: Do Thou bless the foundation of this temple, and its whole edifice; and establish it by Thy might, and make it unshakable and indestructible, to the glory of Thee, the only God glorified in the Trinity, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

He goes on to the west, sprinkling the second part of the foundation, and saying:

Bishop: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm 126(7)

Reader: Except the Lord build the house, they that build it labor in vain; except the Lord keep the city, he that watches keeps vigil in vain, It is vain for you to rise early in the morning; you that eat the bread of afflictions rise up after resting, when He gives sleep to His beloved. Behold, sons are a heritage from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the sons of them that were outcasts. Blessed is he that shall satisfy his desire with them; they shall not be put to shame when they shall speak to their enemies at the gate.

this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. //

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Then the bishop (and concelebrating clergy) begins to sprinkle all the foundations round about, starting from the northern side, and saying:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the bishop sprinkles the perimeter where the temple and all the foundations will be, the reader continues:

Psalm 97 LXX

Reader: The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. Clouds and darkness are round about Him; righteousness and judgment are the establishment of His throne. Fire shall go before Him, and shall burn His enemies round about. His lightnings have shone forth throughout the world; the earth saw it, and trembled. The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of all the earth. The heavens declared His righteousness, and all the peoples saw His glory. Let all them be put to shame that worship graven things, that boast in their idols. Worship Him, all you His angels. Sion heard, and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of Thy judgments, O Lord. For Thou art Lord Most High over all the earth; Thou art exalted far above all the gods. You that love the Lord, hate evil. The Lord preserves the souls of His saints; from the hand of the sinner shall He deliver them. Light has dawned for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Be glad in the Lord, O you righteous; give praise at the remembrance of His holiness.

and snares, and manifest it, by the power, operation and grace of the Most-holy Spirit, to all Thy servants who with faith shall drink of it, receive it, and be sprinkled with it, to be for the remission of sins, the release from passions, the expelling of every evil thing, the increase of virtues, the healing of infirmities, the sanctification and blessing of homes and every place, the driving away of all evil-acting spirits, and the acquisition of Thy grace. For Thou art He that blesseth and sanctifieth all things, O our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thine Only-begotten Son, and Thy Most-holy, Good and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be unto all.

People: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Bishop: Incline Thine ear, and hearken unto us, O Lord Who didst sanctify the waters of Jordan through the manifestation of Thy Christ, and bless all of us who, through the bending of our necks, signify our guilt before Thee, and count us worthy to fulfill Thy sanctification by the reception of this water, and that it may be unto us for health to our souls and bodies. For Thou art our sanctification, and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thine Only-begotten Son, and Thy Most-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The bishop, taking up the Cross, plunges it into the water crosswise, singing the Troparion in Tone 1:

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance.
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries.
And by virtue of Thy Cross,
preserve thine habitation. (*thrice*)

Then he blesses the oil with his right hand three times, saying:

Bishop: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Clergy: Lord, have mercy.

Bishop: O Lord, God of our Fathers, to Whom was pleasing and acceptable the outpouring of oil which Jacob poured on the rock and set upon a pillar, calling it the "House of God": Do Thou look down now, we beseech Thee, mercifully on this oil, and by Thy heavenly blessing, bless and sanctify it, and grant it power, by the grace of Thy Most-holy Spirit, that everything that may be anointed with it to Thy glory may be sanctified and blessed, wellpleasing and acceptable unto Thee: Through the compassions of Thine Only begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thy Most-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Then the bishop takes up the blessed water and sprinkles the place where the Cross has been planted, saying:

And he that presides, taking the Holy Water, sprinkles the foundation with it, saying:

Bishop: This *foundation* is blessed by the sprinkling of this Holy Water, unto the unshakable foundation of the temple constructed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And he that presides, continues, saying:

Bishop: This church is founded to the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, in honor and memory of *St. Athanasius the Great of Alexandria*, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Then, taking the oil, he says:

O God Most High, Who has founded this church, is in the midst of it, and it shall not be moved. God shall help it right early.

And he pours oil on the overturned earth, saying:

Blessed and illustrious shall this place be for a house of prayer, to the honor and glory of God, glorified in the Holy Trinity, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the people and clergy sing the following stikheron in tone 6, samoglas:

Jacob rose up early in the morning,
and took up the stone which he had laid for his head,
and he set it up for a pillar;
and pouring oil upon the top of it,
he said: Surely, the Lord is in this place,
and I knew it not.
How dreadful is this place;

He that presides reads this prayer over the overturned earth:

Bishop: O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, True God, Radiance and Image of the Father without beginning, and Eternal Life; Who art the Cornerstone hewn from the Most-holy Virgin Mount without the hands of the seed of man, and immovable Foundation of Thy Church; Who, by the shedding of Thy precious Blood, hast founded the Church, hast raised it up by Thy death, hast perfected it by Thy Resurrection, hast blessed it by Thine Ascension, and hast sanctified and enlarged it by the Descent of Thy Holy Spirit: Unto Thee do we now humbly pray: Do Thou send down the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and bless... the foundation of the building which is now begun to the glory of Thy most-holy Name *and of that of our holy Father Athanasius*. And do Thou, Who art the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the end, Who from eternity hast created all things, be the beginning, the increase, and the completion of this work; bless the workers and the faithful people, and hasten the work of their hands, and by Thy divine Providence abundantly multiply all things necessary for the building and completion of this temple; that the temple may be perfect and filled with glory, and that in it Thy great and most-holy Name may be glorified, together with Thy Father, and Thy Most-holy Spirit, being blessed always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Bishop: Be well-pleased, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, by the awesome Emblem and power of Thy Cross to guard this place to the glory of Thee, our crucified God, and of Thy Father Who is without beginning, and of Thy Most-holy Spirit: And may the all-pernicious angel and every adverse power depart from it. For Thine is the majesty, and Thine is the Kingdom and the power, of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Then the people sing the Kontakion for the Foundation in tone 6 (in the manner of "Steadfast Protectress"):

Clergy: O Thou who art speedy in defense and strong to help:
Stand before us now through the grace of Thy might, and having blessed, strengthen and bring to a good end the works of Thy servants.
For whatsoever Thou dost will,
Thou art able to do, //
as Thou art God Almighty.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
Now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,
Constant advocate before the Creator,
Despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,
but in thy goodness come speedily to help us who call
on thee in faith,
hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O
Theotokos, //
for thou always protectest those who honor thee.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

*And the bishop reads this Prayer before
the Cross which has been planted, facing east:*

Bishop: O Lord God Almighty, Who didst prefigure by the staff of Moses the precious and life-giving Cross of Thy Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: Do Thou Thyself bless and sanctify this place, by the power and action of the precious and Life-giving Tree of the Cross (which Thou didst furnish by the sprinkling of the precious Blood of Thy Son), unto the expulsion of demons and every adversary, preserving this place, and them that shall serve Thee on it, unharmed by every evil thing: Through the prayers of our Most-glorious Sovereign Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and our Holy Father Athanasius, patron of this church. For blessed and glorified be Thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Blessing the Foundation

As this Psalm is being read (slowly), the earth is turned in preparation for the blessing of the project.

Psalm 83 LXX

Reader: How beloved are Thy dwellings, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs and faints for the Courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh have rejoiced in the living God. Even the sparrow has found herself a home, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young—even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house; unto ages of ages shall they praise Thee. Blessed is the man whose help is from Thee, for he has set ascents in his heart, in the Valley of Tears, in the place which he has appointed, for the Lawgiver shall grant a blessing. They shall go from strength to strength; the God of gods shall be seen in Sion. O Lord God of hosts, hearken unto my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. O God, our Defender, behold, and look upon the face of Thine anointed one. For better is one day in Thy courts than thousands elsewhere; I have chosen rather to be an outcast in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of sinners. For the Lord loves mercy and truth; God will give grace and glory; no good things will the Lord withhold from them that walk without guile. O Lord God of hosts, blessed is the man that hopes in Thee.

Glory.. now and ever.... Alleluia.... (*thrice*)

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Clergy: Lord, have mercy.