

Entering the Cathedral

The interior of an Orthodox church reflects the glory of God and His creation. The rich decoration, fragrant incense, bells, and chanting offer a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom.

In keeping with ancient Christian tradition, the Cathedral floor plan is a **cruciform basilica**. The side apses of the central basilica complete the outline of a cross, with the dome located at the intersection of the cross's arms.

Worshippers enter the **Narthex** from the west (symbolic of darkness) and leave the world behind them. Before services the faithful light candles in the narthex and offer private prayers. The narthex also contains an eight-sided **baptismal font**. A Christian enters the Church through the mystery of baptism, participating in Christ's death and resurrection through a three-fold immersion in water.



Above: As the faithful return to the world via the narthex, the **Parable of the Judgment** (Matthew 25:31-46) is a reminder of the Church's mission: feeding the hungry, caring for the needy.

3 NORTH APSE *Passion to Resurrection*



West side

- Christ raising Lazarus
- Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
- Washing the disciples' feet
- Mystical (Last) Supper

East side

- Agony in the garden
- Betrayal by Judas
- Mocking of Christ
- On trial before Pilate



Pascha (Easter) is the most important feast of the Church year. The north apse shows Christ conquering death and raising Adam, Eve, and all the righteous souls of the Old Testament.



4 ALTAR *Resurrection to Pentecost*

Front row

- Greeting the Myrrhbearers
- Road to Emmaus
- Touch of Thomas
- At the Sea of Tiberius

Back row

- The Ascension
- Descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (*left*)

Life of the Theotokos

Scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary occupy the upper colonnade in the nave. Based on Scripture and Holy Tradition, they depict her birth (celebrated September 8), presentation in the Temple (November 21), and the Annunciation (March 25) as well as her final years in Ephesus.

