

are contained in a liturgical book called the *Trebnyk*. Unique among the liturgical books is the Heirmologion, which contains the musical notations for the melodies of the heirmoi and other texts sung during the church services.

### ***e. Church Bells***

653 From early on in the history of Christianity, the faithful were called to church with the help of acoustic implements of various kinds. At first these tended to be a wooden board or metal plate struck with a rod or mallet. Eventually, these were replaced with bells. In our day, bells are an inseparable part of liturgical life. They are rung before services to gather the faithful, and then during the Marian hymn "It is truly right," sung at the Divine Liturgy. Bells announce the death and funeral of a parishioner, and bells accompany processions around the church. The continuous bell (peredzvin) rings during the first three days of Pascha. At that time, anyone who desires to do so can come and ring the bell. Bells are consecrated and given the names of saints, then hung in a belfry. A belfry may have the form of a tower with a dome or a set of arches and is located over the entrance to the church grounds.

### **C.1he Place of Family Prayer—the Domestic Church**

654 A Christian family's home is the place where members of the family share with God and among themselves the intimacy of love. The family is a community of love, which Saint Paul often calls the domestic church (see Rom 16:5; 1 Cor 16:19; Col 4:15). In this community, the husband and wife, the parents and children, liturgize: they render worship to God by serving one another. It is in the home that a person obtains his or her principal spiritual inheritance: knowledge of God, and respect for parents, the family hearth, the Church, and the earthly homeland.

655 Because the family has a calling to become a domestic church, the home in which the members of a family live becomes a church consecrated to achieving this vocation. This domestic temple is consecrated after it is built; it is then adorned with holy icons and blessed every year with Jordan water. As the parish church, the home is a place of prayer and the living out of the Holy Mystery of Marriage. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit received in the Holy Mystery of Marriage, the members of the family grow in the awareness of their vocation, in love for God and among themselves. Through their common faith they achieve salvation.

656 The *domestic church* is a miniature community, united by blood and spiritual bonds. It is part of the great family of God, the Universal Church, which unites in one Christian family all who were born of God. This common birth makes them all brothers and sisters. The family as a domestic church is the primary cell of the Christian community, because it possesses the three principal ministries of the Universal Church: *sharing the Good News, praying, and witnessing with one's life*. This means that the parents are the first evangelizers and educators of their children. The family is a community of prayer, conversing with God in everyday life and as it builds new relationships grounded in evangelical love, the family is called to become a school of social solidarity.

### **1. The Icon Corner**

657 The part of the home where icons are placed is called the *icon corner*. The name in English (as also the Ukrainian, *pokuttia*) derives from the custom of placing the icons in a corner (*kut*). For Christians, the corner of a house is a reminder of Jesus Christ, "the cornerstone." Arranging such an icon corner in a home truly consecrates a place for God in the life of the family. Customarily there were three icons in such a corner: one of Jesus Christ, another of the Mother of God, and a third of Saint Nicholas. Christ, as the Head of the Church Body, is the model for the husband, the head of the family. The most holy Mother of God with the Child Jesus is the perfect model for the mother and the children. And Saint Nicholas is an example of compassion and hospitality.

658 In significant moments of family life, the parents bless their children with these icons. Before beginning the school year, or leaving home for military service, the children are blessed with the icon of Christ, and before marriage with the icon of the Mother of God. A family prays together and grows together in virtue in the presence of these icons. This corner is also the place for the main Christian books: Holy Scripture, a prayer book, and a catechism.

### **2. Family Prayer**

659 The family as a blessed community grows in the spouses' personal communication with God and between themselves, that is, in prayer. Having arranged a place in their home for prayer (the icon corner), the family also sets aside time for prayer. According to Christian tradition, the family prays in the morning and in the evening, before a meal and after it. The Daily Prayers in the Horologion (or prayer book) are an initial rule of prayer for a family. During family prayer, the children learn as