

BLESSING OF FRUIT

Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
August 6

The feast falls during the time when the fruits of the earth reach maturity. From the earliest times in the Eastern Church, fruit is blessed on this day to thank God for the first-fruits of the earth.

This custom was adopted by the Christian Church from the Jewish custom of bringing fruit to the Temple of the Lord: "You shall carry the first fruits of the corn of your ground to the house of the Lord your God" (Ex. 23:19).

Over the centuries, countries adapted what first-fruits were to be offered. Greece blessed grapes and wheat. In Ukraine, grapes were replaced by apples and other fruits.

