

Deacon Responsibilities



Raising of the Incense (Vespers and Matins)

- 1- Make sure the altar is clean, light candles, and prepare censer before vespers/matins.
- 2- After the Thanksgiving prayer, the deacon brings the censer to the Priest. If a Bishop is present, the Priest holds the incense and the deacon presents the censer.
- 3- Holding up the cross, the deacon stands opposite of the Priest and they circle the altar 3 times while saying responses. Then deacon stands to the right of the Altar holding up the cross. He goes back inside the Altar when the Priest finishes censuring the "circle".
- 4- Take censer from the Priest.
- 5- Bring 3 candles to the Priest as the Orthodox Creed comes to an end.
- 6- Take candles from the Priest and give him the censer. Then take the cross and the Bible and stand outside behind the Priest for the Litany of the Gospel.
- 7- Follow Priest back inside Altar and stand to his right. Procession around altar. Deacon lets Priest take Bible, keeps cross. Standing at the right of the altar, facing the congregation, and holding up the cross, the deacon says the response.
- 8- 2 candles for the Gospel reading
- 9- Deacon gives Priest Bible after absolution
- 10- Blow out candles, put out censer if not needed anymore

Offering of the Lamb and Liturgy of the Word:

- 1- Make sure that the Altar is clean, light candles, prepare censer, prepare oblation basket, prepare cruets of wine and water, and help Priest prepare the Altar by preparing the prospherine.
- 2- Distribute psalms for Agpeya prayers
- 3- Help the Priest wash his hands
- 4- During offertory, one deacon holds the oblation basket.
- 5- During offertory, one deacon holds the wine and a candle, and stands to the right of the Priest. He will give the cruet with wine to the Priest.
- 6- During offertory, one deacon holds the water and a candle, and stands to the left of the Altar, where the Priest will go next.
- 7- During offertory, the rest of the deacons hold candles
- 8- Deacon with the cruet of water pours some water into the hands of the Priest
- 9- During the procession around the Altar, the deacon with the wine follows the Priest, followed by the deacon with the water. The deacon holding the wine holds the wine and candle above his head. The rest of the deacons with candles walk behind. One deacon with a candle walks in front of the Priest.
- 10- Deacons present cruets of wine and water close to the lamb for the Priest to sign the cross on all three.
- 11- After the 3rd crossing, deacon hands the cruet with wine to the Priest.
- 12- The deacon with the water pours some water into the empty cruet in the hands of the Priest, or gives the cruet of water itself to the Priest.
- 13- Deacon helps the Priest cover the Altar with the prospherine

- 14- The deacons prostrate towards Priest, kiss the hands of the Priest saying “I have sinned, absolve me”, then exit the Altar for the absolution.
- 15- Deacon presents the censer to the Priest following the absolution.
- 16- Deacon stands opposite of the Priest holding up the cross, etc...
- 17- When the Priest has finished censuring, the deacon takes the censer
- 18- Deacon presents the censer to the Priest at the end of the Catholic Epistle.
- 19- Deacon stands opposite of the Priest, holding up the cross, and they proceed around the Altar three times, etc...
- 20- When the Priest has finished censuring, the deacon takes the censer
- 21- Present the censer to the Priest at the end of Agios
- 22- Deacon takes the cross and Bible and stands outside the Altar, behind the Priest, for the Litany of the Gospel...etc.
- 23- 2 candles for the Gospel reading

Liturgy of the Faithful:

- 1- After Gospel, present the censer to the Priest during the litanies when the Priest says, “prayers on behalf”, then take censer from the Priest when the litanies are done.
- 2- Deacon saying “Ensofia” holds up the cross
- 3- Deacon helps the Priest wash his hands
- 4- Deacon stands opposite of the Priest and holds up the cross during “According to your good will ...”
- 5- During “greet one another”, deacon who says this response holds up the cross, while another deacon helps Priest remove prospheryne, then deacons fold prospheryne.
- 6- Present the censer to the Priest after “and of the Holy Virgin Mary” just for the Priest to place incense into it.
- 7- Advance with censer towards the Priest after “according to your mercy”, then blow into the censer...meanwhile, deacons light candles and hold them up until “Amen Amen Amen”
- 8- Present censer to Priest for incense to be put in, during “let those who read”
- 9- Deacons light candles at the beginning of the fraction until the confession.
- 10- During the confession response, deacon holds up cross, lefafa, and candle.
- 11- Deacons take Communion in order of rank
- 12- Priest, carrying Paten in his hands, goes to the men seeking Holy Communion...The deacon proceeds him, walking backwards with a lit candle saying, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord”
- 13- When Priest is not attending to the altar while giving the Body, a deacon stands before the altar with a lit candle. Altar is prepared for washing of the utensils and water is prepared.
- 14- Deacon helps priest search for any small molecules of the Body that have adhered to the Paten. If he sees anything, he points from a distance. Otherwise, says “Hail to the Cross”
- 15- Deacon helps keep the doors of the throne open as Priest takes out chalice with Holy Blood.
- 16- Washing of the Chalice over the Paten, the deacon pours water first into the chalice, then wherever the priest points.
- 17- Deacon pours water into paten and then drinks
- 18- Deacon dries the utensils with special towel.
- 19- Deacon binds the utensils together with the prospheryne, 2 knots then 3 knots
- 20- Deacon pours some water into the hands of the Priest for dismissing the Angel
- 21- Deacon brings water for Priest to sprinkle over the congregation
- 22- Deacon holds the lamb basket for Priest
- 23- Deacon blows out candles, puts out censer, dumps out water