

Deacons

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Leader Guidelines

Lead Deacon (Leader 1) – Role Description & Ministry Guidelines

Purpose

The Lead Deacon's primary responsibility is to lead the south side deacons reverently, with confidence, and in a prayerful manner throughout the Divine Liturgy, helping the congregation pray in unity and order.

Responsibilities

1. Lead the South Side Deacons
 - Lead the deacons throughout the entire Divine Liturgy.
 - Encourage the deacons to participate actively and confidently in chanting.
 - Maintain unity in rhythm, pitch, and pace.
2. Be Well Prepared
 - The Leader should be able to chant the hymns of the Liturgical Services confidently and accurately.

Arrive on time to the Liturgical Services

 - Vespers Praises (Saturday Night)
 - Morning Praises (Sunday Morning)
 - The following hymns are considered standard and should be chanted regularly on weekends:
 - Medium Hiten
 - Praxis Response for St. Rebekah
 - Psalm 150 (Pi O Oufa)
 - Pi Oik
 - Tenouweh Ensok
3. Lead with a Strong Voice
 - Chant and read with a clear, strong, and confident voice.
 - The microphone should be used primarily to establish the pace and pitch of the hymn and encourage the congregation and deacons to join.
 - It is not necessary to remain on the microphone throughout the entire hymn.
 - Use wisdom and discretion in microphone usage

Spiritual Conduct

1. Lead Through Prayer
 - Your first responsibility is to pray.
 - Lead the deacons while maintaining a spirit of worship.
 - Never allow administrative responsibilities to distract you from prayer.
2. Avoid Unnecessary Distractions
 - While leading, avoid becoming preoccupied with:

- Distributing microphones.
- Distributing cymbals or triangle.
- Operating a separate iPad or searching for hymns unnecessarily.
- Changing microphone batteries.
- Remember that there are other deacons available to assist with these responsibilities.

Distribution Guidelines: Distribute Wisely

- Distribution should prioritize the quality of the prayer—not to “give everyone a chance.”
- When assigning hymns, choose individuals who:
 - Have a developed and confident voice.
 - Can maintain the correct pitch.
 - Know the hymn well.
 - Can lead others effectively.
- Common areas of distribution include:
 - Distribution Melodies
 - Doxologies
 - Praises
 - Veneration
 - Other appropriate hymns as needed
- Cymbals and the triangle should only be given to individuals who:
 - Can maintain the proper rhythm and pace.
 - Are able to sing and play simultaneously.
 - Help the congregation pray rather than creating confusion.
- Give feedback
 - Someone plays the cymbals too slow, too fast, too loud, etc.

Leadership Principles (Be an Example)

- Lead by example with humility and reverence.
- Be attentive to the altar and the flow of the liturgy.
- Encourage participation without drawing attention to yourself.
- Delegate appropriately and trust other capable deacons to assist.
- Always remember that the goal is not performance, but leading the congregation in prayer.
- Dress appropriately (collared shirt)

Leader 2 (Sunday) - Role Description & Ministry Guidelines

Purpose

The main role of the Leader 2 is to lead the north side deacons with confidence and in a reverent and prayerful manner throughout the Divine Liturgy, helping the children and north side deacons pray in unity and order

Responsibilities

1. Lead the North Side Deacons
 - Lead the deacons throughout the entire Divine Liturgy.
 - Encourage the deacons to participate actively and confidently in chanting.
 - Maintain unity in rhythm, pitch, and pace.
 - Face the East when leading
 - Don't stack the pews
 - 8 deacons in first row
 - 7 maximum in other rows
2. Be Well Prepared
 - Arrive on time
3. Lead with a Strong Voice
 - Chant and read with a clear, strong, and confident voice.
 - Don't just sing in the microphone—encourage the children to sing
 - Watch the Leader 1 and South Side deacons
 - Leader 1 wants to alternate
4. Keep Order by Teaching
 - Leader 2 is not a baby sitter
 - Ex. If someone is sitting down, don't yell at them to stand up, teach them why we should stand and sing

Spiritual Conduct

1. Lead through Prayer
 - The most important responsibility is to pray
 - Don't allow administrative responsibilities distract you from prayer
2. Avoid Unnecessary Distractions
 - Leader 2 is NOT a baby sitter
 - Do not focus too much on the children:
 - Sitting
 - Talking
 - Moving around

Distribution Guidelines

1. Distribute Wisely
 - Distribution should prioritize the quality of the prayer—not to “give everyone a chance.”
 - When assigning hymns, choose individuals who:
 - Have a developed and confident voice.
 - Can maintain the correct pitch.
 - Know the hymn well.
 - Common areas of distribution include:
 - Agpeya gospels and litanies
 - Short Litanies during Vespers

Leadership Principles (Be an example)

- Lead by example with humility and reverence.

- Be attentive to the Leader 1, South Side deacons, and the flow of the liturgy.
- Encourage participation without drawing attention to yourself.
- Always remember that the goal is not order and discipline, but leading the children in prayer.
- Dress appropriately (collared shirt)