

Deacons in the Liturgy

Episcopal Church in East Tennessee

It is a great joy for the bishop that the ministry of deacons is lived out and held up with such commitment and consistency in the Diocese of East Tennessee. There is a significant ministry of servanthood, and one that is a great gift to the bishop and the entire diocese.

As previously stated, the expectation is that there will always be a deacon present for the bishop's visitations, and if there is not a deacon officially assigned to the parish, we will schedule one for the visitation.

Following are minimum expectations of the deacon's duties for the day:

- Meet the bishop upon arrival and assist in transporting liturgical vestments.
- Check in with the Rector/Priest in Charge, coordinate with acolytes
- Confirm seating for deacon and bishop, and placement for crozier stand and mitre
- Make sure there is a glass of water for the bishop at the pulpit and credence table
- Confirm liturgical details:
 - Is the Gospel book processed at entry and exit?
 - Is there a Gospel procession?
 - Which Eucharistic Prayer is being used?
 - Is the Altar Book marked correctly?
 - How is the altar set up? (i.e. burse/veil, etc.)
 - How is the table cleared? (the bishop prefers clearing the table, then cleaning and consuming after the service)
 - Does the deacon introduce parts of the liturgy?
- Assist the bishop with mitre and crozier throughout the service
- Read the Gospel. Prior to reading the gospel, please stand before the bishop for a blessing.
- Assist the bishop with Baptism, Confirmation, etc., holding book and assisting with mitre and crozier
- Proclaim the Dismissal
- Assist the bishop with packing up and loading the car

Besides the fact that having deacons in the liturgy upholds the integrity of the orders of ministry, we hope that each parish seeing the ministry of deacons in work (at least the liturgical ministry), will help educate them and possibly even stir up the movement of the Spirit as far as discernment.