



WITH
FAITH & LOVE

D R A W N E A R

CONSISTORY OFFICE
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE USA

Liturgy part 5

What does serving at the altar look like in your parish?

Praxis Objective: Youth and parishioners learn about the ranks of clergy in the Orthodox Church and how their roles connect to the Divine Liturgy.

Let's Get Ready!



Watch the designated video. Discuss the questions and explore the activities on the following page with your youth and share with your parish.

Video - The Role and Ranks of Clergy
with Fr. Theopane Mackey
<https://youtu.be/3m1PJGBhwdI>

Challenge your youth and parish family to deepen their understanding of the Liturgy and their own participation in the Liturgy.
Provide the worksheet for their use or use within your youth ministry.

Utilize UOC Youth! Winter 2024 Magazine to further the discussion. For a written explanation of the ranks of clergy, utilize *Holy Orders, The Orthodox Church Vol. 2* by Fr. Thomas Hopko.
<https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith/worship/the-sacraments/holy-orders>

For our "mini" aged youth, we recommend using the resources -What is a Priest? - by Presvytera Katie (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COW3ZUdPGko>) from Ancient Faith Kids.

Utilize these resources for our Minis (ages 4-8) to discuss how the Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion prepares us to be Christ in the world - giving love and kindness.

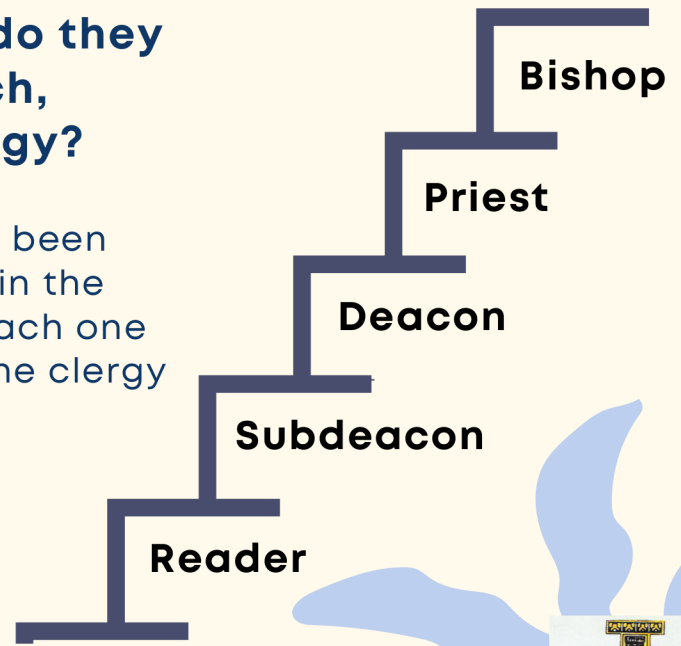
Additional Resources may also be found for all ages at
www.uocyouth.org/withfaithandlove

ROLE AND RANKS OF CLERGY IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH



Who are the clergy? What role do they play in the Orthodox Church, especially in the Divine Liturgy?

The Clergy are the people who have been ordained by God to do special jobs in the church. There is a special order and each one follows the rules and the guidance of the clergy above them.



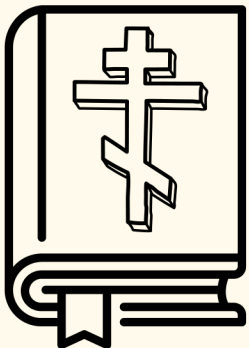
How does having a hierarchy, or order of who is in charge in the church, help it to run smoothly?



The Minor Orders:

Readers

A reader has the job of preparing and reading special sections of the services like the Prokeimenon, Epistle, and Alleluia verses during the Divine Liturgy.



Subdeacons

A Subdeacon is often the head altar server. When a bishop is serving, the subdeacon holds special items like the bishop's candles, staff and anything else he needs help with.

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The Major Orders:

Deacons

Like an official assistant to the priest, deacons help the parish priest during worship by chanting the petitions during Litanies, reading the Gospel, and carrying items like the censer. They also help outside the church by visiting with people who are sick.



Priests

A priest is ordained by a bishop and is responsible for the souls of the people in his parish. Without a priest or bishop, you cannot have Divine Liturgy. Only someone who has been ordained a priest can call down the Holy Spirit to turn the bread and wine into the Eucharist.



Bishops

The bishop is responsible for all of the people in his parishes- like a shepherd who watches over his sheep. The other clergy go to him for guidance and bishops work together to make decisions- one isn't more powerful over the other. If the bishop serves during the Divine Liturgy, a special type called a "Hierarchal Liturgy" can be served.



How do the different ranks of the clergy work together to lead the people in worship?

www.uoc youth.org



OYM
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Liturgy

ROLE AND RANKS OF CLERGY THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

What can I apply to me?

Below you will find suggestions for how you can help the priest and other clergy in your parish. When we all work together and do the jobs God has called us to do, we are living the Liturgy. Check the ways you will try to grow in the faith!

- Support the clergy** - being in charge might sound exciting, but it is hard work. It's especially hard to be a member of the clergy because when you are doing something good for God, the Evil One tries to make things extra challenging. Always say a special prayer for your bishops and the clergy in your parish. Consider sending them a card with an encouraging message or making a small gift to help them focus on Christ even when things are difficult.
- Interview them** - Interview the people in your parish who are part of the clergy. Ask them how they knew God was calling them to their position and see what they remember about their tonsuring/ordination.
- Altar server/reader retreats** - some areas host retreats or special meetings where altar servers to learn more about how to serve correctly. Readers and members of the choir can get together to practice church music, learn new hymns, and prepare music so that it is organized and ready for services.

Use the area below to note any questions you have for your priest or youth ministry leader/teacher.

