



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 8

When the Bishop Comes to Visit

Praxis Objective: Youth and parishioners learn how to greet the bishop and how the Divine Liturgy is different when he comes to visit!

Let's Get Ready!



Read the worksheets together and explore the activities on the following page with your youth and share with your parish. 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! Spring 2024 Magazine to further the discussion. There is an activity provided in the UOC Youth Worker! edition to better understand the Antiphons.

To look more closely at the bishop visiting - use these resources:

- Why does the bishop get “dressed’ in Church? - <https://www.stvolodymyr.ca/parish-news-updates/why-does-the-bishop-get-dressed-in-church#:~:text=The%20vesting%20of%20the%20bishop,the%20marks%20of%20His%20Incarnation.>
- Listen to *Esi Pola Eti Despota* by the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Rs42EJBSGJ4>

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

LITRUGY & THE BISHOP



Do you remember the 6th Issue where we discussed the ranks of clergy? We learned that 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. There are also ranks or levels of bishops.



You may have noticed the comparison of the bishop to that of a shepherd. Look at the icon to the right and read John 10:11-18. How do you think this is related?



Bishop

A special office/position in the church of a leader of the people. All bishops are equal in the eyes of the church and are assigned to a parish or town.



Archbishop

An archbishop has more responsibility than a bishop and usually a larger area over which to lead.



Metropolitan

A Metropolitan has even MORE responsibility and an even larger city, region or country to care for.



Patriarch

A Patriarch is the bishop of either the most important city or of a country. There are currently nine patriarchs in the Orthodox Church around the world.

The Ecumenical Patriarch is sort of like the Chairman of the Board in the group or Holy Synod of bishops. As we first said, ALL bishops are equal in the eyes of the church - no matter their title or position. However, order and structure help us in life!



LITURGY & THE BISHOP



Vesting the Bishop

Sometimes the bishop will be vested or dressed at the beginning of the liturgy. This often happens by the priest before anyone arrives, however, it can happen in the center of the church in front of the faithful. *“The vesting of the bishop represents the Incarnation of the Word. As ‘Word of God, being without flesh, clothed Himself in holy flesh from the Holy Virgin, so the bishop clothes himself in his sacred vestments which signify the Incarnation of Christ, and the marks of His Incarnation.’*

“The Divine Liturgy: A Commentary In the Light of the Fathers” by Hieromonk Gregorios



How do I greet Him?

We should always show respect to one another and most especially to our priest and bishops. As Orthodox Christians we do this in a special way! Place your right hand on top of your left with palms facing upwards make a cup of sorts. When you greet the bishop, make a slight bow saying “Master Bless.” He will then place his hand in yours and you lightly kiss his hand. Why? This not only shows our deep respect for him but also for the sacramental works he performs as bishop. It is also a tradition to greet the bishop with flowers and bread/salt on his arrival.

Eis Polla Eti Despota?

You may hear this phrase sung several times throughout the bishop’s visit. It is an old Greek prayer that roughly translates to, “Many Years to you Master” or “Preserve, O Lord, our Master and Hierarch.” During or after this the bishop will then bless the faithful. A special version called Ton Despotin is sung after his vesting.



Trisagion Prayer

During the Trisagion Prayer, Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us! you will notice that it is conducted differently with the bishop and the people/choir taking turns. The bishop uses a special three branch and two branch candle to bless the faithful. He will use these special candles through out the service. At the end, a special version of Eis Polla Eti Despota is sung.





LITURGY & SCRIPTURE

Washing Hands

Before the Great Entrance the bishop will wash his hands in front of the Royal Doors facing the people. He washes them at this point because he will be going to the Table of Oblation and performing the last commemorations of the priests present and serving at the altar. The clergy will kiss his omophrion as they are being commemorated.



Bishop's Staff

You may notice the bishop walking with a tall stick or staff. It most likely will be covered in gold, silver or may be left as highly polished wood. The staff shows his authority as bishop as the shepherd to his flock. Typically the top will have two serpents or dragons facing one another with a cross in-between. This type of staff symbolizes Moses lifting up his staff and it turning into a serpent and then back again. They may also have the Greek letter Tau turning downward with a cross above it. Tau is the ancient Greek symbol of resurrection and life.

Many Blessed Years!

At the end of Liturgy, your priest may say a special remembrance for the bishop with the faithful singing God Grant You Many Blessed Years Vladyko!



I didn't realize just how different the liturgy is when the bishop visits. I wonder what it is like for him to visit so many different parishes and meet so many people in the church. It is a lot of responsibility to be a bishop.



Liturgy AND THE BISHOP

What can I apply to me?

Below you will find suggestions for growing your understanding of the connection between the Divine Liturgy and the Bishop. Check the ways you will try to grow in the faith!

- Be Prepared** - When someone special is coming to visit, we want to be ready for them! Think ahead of what you will wear on the day the bishop visits. Do your best to not only be on time but arrive early! Perhaps prepare a special gift for him, using the talents God has given you.
- Praying for our Hierarchs** - We pray several times throughout the liturgy for our bishops. Pay attention to see how many times and where this is done. When the bishop visits, pay special attention to these prayers as he is with you. Our hierarchs pray for us daily. We often also ask them for special prayers or intercessions when something is happening in our life. In return, we should keep our bishops in our personal prayers at home - asking for their health and well-being.
- Supporting our Bishops** - Our bishops are not only the spiritual leaders but fathers and shepherds of the Church. We show love for our family members through our actions. How can we show our love and respect to our hierarchs? Consider sending them cards on special holidays, their birthdays or anniversary of their ordinations! Invite them to or keep them informed of special events in your life.



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