

Requisites for Ordination - Draft

The following is a guide that provide the structure of training and expectation of ordination at St. John Armenian Church, beginning 2020. This list may be subject to change in the future, and specific requirements are subject to the discretion of the parish priest and ordaining bishop.

Prior to Serving on the Altar

Knowledge

- Review of proper etiquette on the Holy Altar
- Review of Altar Servers vestments
- Review of the various movements on the Holy Altar

Skills

- Can follow along in the Divine Liturgy Book
- Can put on the proper robe and slippers

Acolyte

Knowledge

- Understanding of the four minor orders of the Armenian Church
- Understanding the functions of a Deacon, Priest and Bishop
- Recognizing the various areas of the sanctuary
- Understanding of the Divine Liturgy as the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and appreciation for discipline of preparation before participating
- Familiarity with the hymns sung by the choir during the Divine Liturgy
- Recognizing the vestments of a priest, and understanding how to help vest the celebrant before Divine Liturgy
- Recognizing the various vessels and tools on the altar

Skills

- Can serve as a candle bearer with adequate instruction and experience to do so without coaching or prompting
- Can support in the preparation of the Holy Altar prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy
- Can consistently behave with decorum on the Holy Altar while serving
- Can assist with the blessing of the Mas during Badarak

Sub-deacon

Knowledge

- Understanding of Liturgical Calendar, including various Feasts and Fasts
- Review of the Sacred Liturgical Books of the Armenian Church
- Introduction to the Prayers of the Hours or *Zhamerkutyun*
 - Understanding of the roles and positions of the participants during Zhamerkutyun
- Introduction to the 8 modes and understanding the modal system
- Familiarity with the various liturgical aspects of the Lenten Period, including *Kotz Badarak, Hsgoom, Arevakal, and Turnpatsek*
- Familiarity with festal *Jrakalouyts Badarak*

Skills

- Can serve with the liturgical fan or *Kshotz* during the Divine Liturgy with adequate instruction and experience to do so without coaching or prompting
- Can serve as *purvaragir* during Divine Liturgy with adequate instruction and experience to do so without coaching or prompting
- Can chant the deacon's hymns of the Divine Liturgy
- Can lead the General Form of Confession
- Can chant the general melody of the Psalms, both in English and Armenian, specifically can chant the psalms of the Night, Morning and Evening services
- Can chant the litanies of the Requiem Service or *Hokehankist*
- Can chant the Alleliuas or *Allelook* according to the modal system

Deacon

Knowledge

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- Sufficient Biblical comprehension as would allow a deacon to accurately portray the Christian faith, including:
 - Understanding internal structure of the Holy Bible, its sections and themes.
 - Familiarity with the narrative of Jesus's life and works.
- Working understanding of the doctrines of the Armenian Apostolic Church
 - Familiarity with the Creeds of Faith
 - Understanding of the position of the Armenian Church in relation to other denominations
- Functional understanding of the structure of the Prayers of the Hours or *Zhamerkutyun*, especially the Night Office, Morning Office, and Evening Office.
- Understanding of the liturgical structure of the sacraments of baptism and marriage
- Understanding of the liturgical structure of the funeral rite, and its three associated services
- Familiarity of the Antasdan Service
- Understanding of the Holy Week services
- Understanding of the following special services
 - Blessing of the Water
 - Blessing of the Grapes
 - Blessing of the Salt (Madagh)
 - Pontifical Prayers (Hayrabadagan Maghtank)

Skills

- Intoning of the reading of the Holy Gospel during the Divine Liturgy
- Censing during morning and evening offices
- Performance of the Lesser and Greater Entrances during Divine Liturgy (Veraperoom)
- Can chant deacon's litanies unaided for the following services
 - Divine Liturgy
 - Night and Morning Offices
 - Sunrise Office (Lent)
 - Evening Office
 - Lenten Vigil (Hsgoom)
- Can sing primary hymns of the Night, Morning and Evening Offices including
 - Heshestsook ee keesheree
 - Ashkharh amenayn
 - Aravod Looso
 - Park ee partsoons

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- Soorp Asdvadz
- Norasdeghdzyal
- Looy's Zvart
- Soorp yes der
- Can chant deacon's parts and otherwise support in the performance of all Holy Week services and aforementioned special services.

Continuing Education

- Learn the major hymns of the five tabernacle feasts
- Learn the primary hymns of the Book of Rites or *Mashdots*
- Develop Armenian readings skills if not already proficient, which support proper pronunciation and the use all available Armenian liturgical resources
- Learn full general form of confession as is published in the Book of Hours or Zhamerkutyun
- Be proficient in the Night, Morning, and Evening Services in the context of Saint Commemorations and Fasts.
- Learn the Rite of the Prayers of the Sick
- Memorization of deacon's chants from the Divine Liturgy