



Serving Rubrics for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

As served in the Diocese of Philadelphia & Eastern Pennsylvania - Autumn 2015

At Great Vespers:

- When the hierarch arrives the bells ring
- As the bishop enters the church the curtain and royal doors are opened and he enters the altar.
- The antimimension is opened with the gospel put aside (like at liturgy) and the bishop venerates it.
- You then greet the hierarch and get his blessing.
- Close up the antimimension and prepare for Great Vespers
- A chair is set up on the right (south) side of the front of the church for the hierarch
- After you vest the serving clergy exit the altar and receive the hierarch's blessing before the service begins
- Every time there is a censuring, you present the censer to the hierarch for his blessing
- Every time the hierarch is mentioned in a litany you turn and make a slight bow towards him
- Every time you give an explanation you make a slight bow towards the hierarch
- At the dismissal you bring out the cross (like at the liturgy) and at the conclusion of the dismissal you present the cross to the hierarch for him to bless the faithful.
- Offer some words of greeting to the hierarch on behalf of the parish and then he in turn will say some words of greeting and encouragement to the faithful.
- The hierarch will offer the cross
- After the veneration the cross the priest offers the final "Through the prayers..." and reenters the altar and closes the doors and curtain.

At the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy:

BEFORE THE SERVICE:

- Orletzi (eagle rugs) are placed:
 - o One at the back door as he comes into the church
 - o Two on the solea. One facing the altar and another facing the faithful
 - o One on the cathedra in the middle of the church
 - o One at the High Place
 - o Eventually the one at the back door will go in front of the Altar Table

GREETING THE HIERARCH

- Proskomedia is already done before the hierarch gets there. You don't need to say the prayers for the covering of the gifts. The hierarch will do that at the Cherubic Hymn. You should just cover the gifts to protect them until that time.
- At the appropriate time the clergy exit the altar and should greet the hierarch (You should be waiting for him, not him waiting for you).
 - o NOTE: Usually just the priest who did Proskomedia is vested and other clergy greet the hierarch in their riassa. Sometimes for the sake of expediency all the clergy greet the hierarch vested.
- The Council President will greet the Hierarch on behalf of the Parish Council with Bread and Salt
- The Rector of the Parish greets the hierarch with a hand cross on a covered tray (as you hold it, the head of Christ should be closer to your right hand. This way the hierarch can grab the handle easier).
- After the greeting by the priest, the hierarch will hold the cross and say a few words. When he is finished the other serving clergy (if there are any) will venerate the cross, and then the priest holding the cross will venerate it last and then return to the altar.
- The Deacon intones "Wisdom!" and the choir sings "It is truly meet..." as the hierarch enters the church and does his entrance prayers.
- During the entrance prayers, when the hierarch removes his klobuk, all the clergy removed their headgear. When he puts it back on, they return theirs as well.

THE VESTING (OPTION 1)

- As the Choir sings "Ton Dhespotin..." the hierarch blesses the faithful and then goes to the cathedra in the middle of the church.
- As the bishop is vested, the serving clergy vest in the altar.
- The parish rector remains in the altar until the end of the vesting when they sing "Ton Dhespotin..." again.
- He receives the blessing of the hierarch, and begins the reading of the hours.
- The deacon censens the church
- At the end of the hours the rest of the clergy come out and take their place at the cathedra

- The faithful come forward and receive the blessing of the hierarch.

THE VESTING (OPTION 2)

- As the Choir sings “Ton Dhespotin...” the hierarch blesses the faithful
- When he turns to bless the faithful the Royal Doors are opened and he enters the altar to vest there.
- A table is prepared in the altar where the bishop will be vested.
- The hours are read while the bishop vests
- After he vests and washes his hands, he will do his commemorations at the table of oblation
- At the prayer of the hours, the hierarch exits out the Royal Doors to the cathedra in the middle of the church. The clergy exit through the deacon doors. And take their place in rank alongside the cathedra. When they all assemble they face the altar, sign themselves and then bow to the bishop aligning themselves facing each other.

THE BEGINNING OF LITURGY

- After the opening prayers (“O Heavenly King...”, “Glory to God in the Highest...” etc.) the senior priest receives the blessing of the hierarch with the deacon after him (and other serving deacons receive his blessing as well and stand behind the cathedra).
- The senior priest enters the altar through the south deacon door, opens the Royal Doors, venerates the altar and bows to the hierarch with the deacon
- The deacon, in front of the icon of our Lord, intones “Bless Master!”
- The priest intones the opening Exclamation: “Blessed is the Kingdom...” venerates the altar, bows to the hierarch with the deacon, and then takes his place on the south side of the altar.
- At the commemoration of the hierarch he steps in front of the altar and bows to the hierarch with the deacon
- He does the first exclamation: “For unto Thee are due all glory...” and again comes to the front of the altar and bows to the hierarch with the deacon, then returns to his place next to the altar.
- The other serving clergy bow to the bishop with the deacon, and reenter the altar through the deacon doors, venerate the altar, and bow to the hierarch. They then take the exclamation in turn and do the same as described above.

THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

- At the beginning of the 3rd Antiphon the clergy process to the bishop
- After venerating the altar and bowing to the hierarch the senior priest gives the Gospel to the deacon who goes in procession to the hierarch.
- After the deacon presents the Gospel to the hierarch, the hierarch takes the trikiri (right hand) and dikiri (left hand) and the deacon exclaims: “Wisdom! Let us attend!”
- The clergy sing: “O Come let us worship...” with the choir joining in. The clergy again sing: “Save us O Son of God...” as the hierarch begins to cense the altar.

- The choir sings the “Eis Polla” trio as he censes the iconostas and the people. The clergy venerate the altar after the hierarch goes out to cense the iconostas and people.
- The clergy echo the choir’s singing of “Eis Polla eti dhespota”

AT THE TRISAGION & GOSPEL

- The clergy and the choir go back and forth signing “Holy God”
- The hierarch takes the dikiri in his right hand and a hand cross in his left and turns to bless the people. If there is a priest on the north side of the altar he gives it to the hierarch.
- The hierarch will put his own incense on the censer before the deacon censes
- If the hierarch is wearing the large omophor, he removes it during the singing of the prokimenon
- During the Alleluia the senior priest venerates the altar with the deacon and presents the Gospel to him, who in turn, presents the Gospel to the hierarch at the High Place.
- The hierarch USUALLY preaches the sermon. He’ll hold his staff

AT THE CHERUBIC HYMN

- After the exclamation “That guarded always by Thy might...” the servers wash the hierarch’s hands in the Royal Doors (them facing the altar, the hierarch facing the people).
- The small omophor is put on him as he reenters the altar.
- The gifts are uncovered and placed on the side of the table of oblation. The hierarch will say the prayers and cover the gifts before the procession.
- While he does his commemorations he will give the large aer to the deacon who censes the iconostas the people.
- The deacon takes the diskos, the priest takes the chalice and meet the hierarch at the entrance of the Royal Doors. When the priest presents the chalice to the hierarch he says quietly: “Your episcopacy may the Lord, God, remember in His Heavenly Kingdom...”

AT THE CREED

- After the hierarch offers the “Peace”, the clergy go to the south side of the altar and then come and venerate the gifts and then greet the hierarch with the kiss of peace, ending with kissing his hand. The hierarch will say: “Christ is in our Midst!” and the clergy respond: “He is and shall be!” The clergy exchange the same with one another.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

- During the commemoration of the hierarch’s, after the Hierarch commemorates the Primate of the Church, the senior priest exclaims: “Among the first remember O Lord, _____” and commemorates only the hierarch present. After he receives his blessing.

AT COMMUNION

- After the hierarch receives and distributes communion to the clergy, have supifka for him on the table of oblation with someone reading the Prayers After Communion for him.
- The hierarch usually offers the chalice himself, but check and see what he wants to do.
- If needed it might be good to have multiple chalices for expediency sake.

AT THE DISMISSIAL:

- The senior priest will take out the hand cross and after the dismissal and blessing with the drikiri/dikiri, gives the hierarch the hand cross. The hierarch offers the cross at the veneration.
- After veneration the hierarch reenters the altar and divests as the choir sings the “Eis polla” trio. At its conclusion the hierarch exits the altar through the Royal Doors and blesses the faithful.