

EUCCHARIST & RESERVED SACRAMENT

In the Eucharist

Deacons of the diocese function in roles appropriate to the order at all diocesan liturgies, according to the custom of the parish. During the liturgy the role of the deacon may be as follows:

- The deacon is to emphasize the place of the Gospel in the liturgy. To that end, the deacon may carry the gospel book in procession, place it in a prominent place, read the Gospel, and be blessed prior to proclamation of the Gospel as may be custom of the parish, as it is the deacon, not the book, that is being blessed.
- Since the deacon functions to raise up servanthood and service within the community, diaconal sermons should emphasize servanthood or service and/or the mission of the Church.
- The deacon is to bring the needs of the world to the Church. To that end, the deacon may be responsible for or supervise the Prayers of the People and issue the invitation to the Confession of Sin.
- During the prayers, the deacon may encourage the people to participate and to bring the needs of which they are aware to the attention of the community.
- The deacon customarily prepares the table and receives the gifts.
- When using Rite I, it is appropriate for the deacon to read the Comfortable Words and the Summary of the Law.

- The deacon may stand to the presider's right during the Great Thanksgiving. The deacon is the minister of the chalice. When there is an elevation at the doxology at the end of the canon and/or the invitation, the deacon may raise the chalice.
- As the principal minister of the chalice, the deacon may distribute the wine, assisted by additional chalice bearers when necessary. The deacon may supervise the preparation, and the cleansing, of the additional chalices. The deacon may administer the bread when needed.
- The deacon may perform the ablutions, assisted by chalice bearers, either after distribution of communion or after the service.
- The deacon customarily dismisses the congregation.
- The deacon customarily carries the Paschal candle in procession at the Easter Vigil and for baptisms and funerals. If trained and able, the deacon may sing the Lumen Christi and the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil.
- The deacon may lead the prayers for the candidates and other parts of the service where appropriate for baptism, confirmation, and reception at services of Christian initiation.

Reserved Sacrament

The deacon, along with the presbyter, is a minister of the reserved sacrament for those who, for reasonable cause, cannot be present at a public celebration of the Eucharist. The service for "Communion Under Special Circumstances" on page 396 of The Book of Common Prayer is used. It is appropriate for the deacon to train and supervise lay Eucharistic ministers.

In the Diocese of San Diego, the Holy Eucharist is the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day and other major feasts and it is not customary to use the so-called "Deacon's Mass" in place of the Holy Eucharist. However, in an emergency, when the presence of a presbyter cannot be arranged, the deacon may distribute communion from the reserved sacrament following the rubric on page 282 of The Book of Common Prayer. If possible, the permission of the bishop should be obtained in advance. In any event, the bishop is to be notified when this occurs.