

PROGRAM FOR THE DIACONATE

Introduction

The Program for the Diaconate is an educational and formational initiative of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology offered in conjunction with the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The certificate program is designed to prepare a candidate for the ordained diaconate. The candidate must be a committed and mature Orthodox Christian who has been active in a parish, and who senses a calling from the Lord to serve the Church in the diaconal ministry.

The program is the basis for other meetings and studies required by the local hierarch and complemented by service in a parish under the mentorship of the local priest.

The program is designed especially for persons who are members of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and who have the blessing of their Metropolitan to participate. Persons from other Orthodox jurisdictions may also apply to participate in the program. This program is not designed for persons who sense a calling to the priesthood.

The program is intended for individuals who are interested in serving the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as deacons and is designed to prepare these candidates for service to the Church as deacons. Upon successful completion of the program, candidates will receive a Certificate of Study and transferable graduate credits.

The program does not meet the requirements for ordination to the priesthood nor is the program a first step in the process leading towards ordination to the priesthood. Individuals interested in pursuing ordination to the priesthood are encouraged to apply for admission to the full-time Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program at Holy Cross. Applicants should be aware that admission into and successful completion of the Diaconate Program is not a guarantee for ordination. It is understood that the Holy Eparchial Synod will determine the final criteria for ordination to the diaconate and that diaconal assignments to a particular parish, or ministry, are made by one's local hierarch.

Program Goal

- To educate, train, and prepare diaconate candidates for service in the Orthodox Church. Instruction in diaconate teleturgics is based on service in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Demonstrate basic competency in Orthodox theology
- Demonstrate competency in the teleturgical responsibilities of an Orthodox deacon including the liturgical cycle, major feasts, and various services of the Orthodox Church.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how to support the local Priest with pastoral visitations and other pastoral needs of the community.
- Demonstrate a willingness to offer their God-given gifts, beyond pastoral care, to the Priest so he may direct them in ministry to support the needs of the parish.

Students will receive a Certificate of Study and 16.5 transferable Graduate credit hours from Holy Cross upon the successful completion of the Diaconate Program. Further information is available on the Program of the Diaconate page of the school's website.

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DIACONATE PROGRAM COURSE GUIDE

YEAR 1			
WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CREDITS
Summer	Teleturgics/Byzantine Music	In-person at HCHC	.5
Fall	Intro to New Testament	Online, Asynchronos	3
Fall/Spring	Clinical Pastoral Education	Online, bi-monthly, RMCSCG	1.5
Spring	Liturgics	Online, Asynchronos	3
YEAR 2			
Summer	Teleturgics/Byzantine Music	In-person at HCHC	.5
Fall	Preaching	Online, Asynchronos	3
Fall/Spring	Clinical Pastoral Education	Online, monthly, RMCSCG	1.5
Spring	Dogmatics III Sacramental Theology	Online, Asynchronos	3
YEAR 3			
Summer	Teleturgics/Byzantine Music	In-person at HCHC	.5
TOTAL MTS CREDITS EARNED			16.5
TOTAL CLINICAL PASTORAL UNITS (CHAPLAINCY) EARNED			1

Program Expectations

All candidates are required to complete three summer sessions and all courses to qualify for the Diaconate Program Certificate. In-person attendance during the summer sessions is mandatory. Candidates must arrive by the first Saturday and not depart before evening of the second Saturday.

Candidates must pass a final exam each week administered on the last Saturday of the Summer Session. If a candidate does not pass the exam, they must attend the first Saturday of the next Summer Session to re-take the final. These arrangements must be made through Deacon John and Father Bartholomew before attending the next session. Likewise, if the candidate has demonstrated that they have not acquired the necessary teleturgical ability when the final exam is re-taken, then the candidate will have to re-take the summer course they did not pass, thus delaying their completion of the program.

DIACONATE PROGRAM SAMPLE SUMMER SCHEDULE

Summer Session (Saturday, July 13 – Sunday, July 21)

Daily Program

Check-in is available beginning on Friday afternoon. Programming begins on Saturday

First Saturday:

9:00 am - 5:00 pm: Check-in and orientation

10:00 am: Final examination re-takes from the prior year

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday:

7:00 am: Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy

11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Brunch and free-time

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Orientation and Introductions and Fellowship Circle

5:00 pm - 5:45 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Fellowship and Freetime

Monday-Friday

7:45 am – 8:30 am: Orthros (if weekday Orthros/Liturgy, then 6:00 am start time)

8:30 am – 9:30 am: Breakfast

9:30 am-12:00 pm: Session I*

12:00 pm-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Session II*

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Break

5:00pm – 5:45pm: Vespers

5:45 pm – 7:00 pm: Dinner

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Relax and/or optional social gathering

*Sessions I and II are either Teleturgics or Chant, depending on “class”

Saturday*

8:00 am - 5:00 pm: Final Examination Teleturgics in Chapel and Reading Room

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm: Vespers and Certificate Awards

*Departure is any time after 6:30 pm on Saturday. Check-out on Sunday is available to all participants.

HOLY CROSS CHAPEL AND SERVICE GUIDE

Daily services will be held in the Chapel throughout the week. Divine Liturgy will be held on the first Sunday and two additional Liturgies during the week. At least one Liturgy will be Hierarchical. Candidates are expected to attend all daily services: Orthros, Vespers, Liturgy, and other services.

Dress Code

June and July are hot months in New England and there is no air conditioning in the dorms. Classrooms, cafeteria, and chapel, however, are air-conditioned. Bring summer clothing for the dorms. Classroom attire is business casual. Shorts are not recommended, but given the hot weather, they are acceptable. You do not need to wear the traditional black trousers and white shirt of the seminarian. However, slacks or jeans and a collared shirt are your best bet for general campus attire. Keep in mind as part of the curriculum most summer sessions are visited by a Bishop/Metropolitan.

Chapel attire is similar. No shorts. Slacks and a shirt with a collar are appropriate. You do not need to wear a coat and tie. Some of you may have an antiri (cassock with tight sleeves).

- ❖ When you are serving in the altar or chant stand, an antiri (black cassock) is required.

Altar Service and Chanting

All candidates are required to participate in daily services between the altar and chant stand. Each candidate will be assigned a team that will rotate between the chant stand and altar service to ensure that everyone participates in these roles. Ordained Deacons who attend the in-person session will also rotate through services to participate liturgically throughout the week.

Service Books

All Orthros and Vesper services will use the Holy Cross Chapel service book as a guide, supplemented by the GOA Digital Chant Stand. Candidates may choose to use a tablet to follow the service at the chant stand. Paper copies should be used when serving in the altar. The GOA Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom Copyright 2018 will be used as the primary service book for Deacons and Priests serving in the altar. If a new edition is published, then the latest edition should be used. All Diaconate Candidates should come to the summer session with a Liturgikon.

Apolotyktion of Holy Cross:

Apolytikion of the Holy Cross

First Tone

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your people by Your Holy Cross.

Ἀπολυτίκιον

First Tone

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων
δωροῦμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

Petitions for Holy Cross:

After: For our Country...

Ὑπὲρ τῆς Ἁγίας τοῦ Χριστοῦ Μεγάλης Ἐκκλησίας, τῆς Ἱερᾶς ἡμῶν Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς, [τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως ταύτης,] τῆς πόλεως καὶ κοινότητος ταύτης, πάσης πόλεως, χώρας καὶ τῶν πίστει οἰκούντων ἐν αὐταῖς, τοῦ Κυρίου δεηθῶμεν.

For the Great and Holy Church of Christ, for our Holy Archdiocese, [for this Holy Metropolis,] for this city and parish, for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For this sacred school, the president, deans, faculty, staff, and students; the trustees, benefactors, and alumni, let us pray to the Lord.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Teleturgics for the Deacon 1.5 Credits

Three in-person summer sessions in conjunction with Byzantine Music each year

Teleturgics will be taught by HCHC faculty as arranged by Fr. Bartholomew Mercado, the HCHC Chaplain and Diaconate Program Advisor. These classes will take place in person each summer on campus at HCHC. Each class of candidates will have specific instruction based on their graduating year and thus be split into groups for classes while attending the Diaconate Program. Attendance in Teleturgics is mandatory each year. Successful completion of the course includes viewing recorded lessons before attending the summer session and passing the exam on the last day of the session (always on the last Saturday).

A liturgical practicum designed primarily to help the candidate for ordination develop a liturgical ethos, style, and presence. The course offers an analysis of the structural elements of the divine services and instruction on the use of the liturgical books of the Orthodox Church. The course is especially concerned with helping the student develop skills for the proper conduct and celebration of the divine services. The class allows for role-playing and analysis. Teleturgics deals specifically with Vespers, Orthros, the preparatory rites for the Divine Liturgy, i.e., Kairos, vesting, and proskomide. The development, care, and meaning of vestments are also dealt with. Special attention will be given to how one conducts the liturgy when a hierarch is serving. After this, the class will deal with the administration of Holy Unction and the Eucharist in pastoral settings outside of the Divine Liturgy, and the Deacon's role in various other services.

Byzantine Music

This course is a study of the standard petitions and readings of vespers, orthros, divine liturgy, and the sacraments for practical use. All of the hymns will be studied in English with the aid of various musical settings. This course intends to provide Diaconate Candidates with proper movements, pronunciation, melody, and practice in the parts of the services for deacons.

Introduction to the New Testament 3 Credits

Fall of the first year

A required survey of the New Testament books in their historical and religious background with attention to hermeneutics, the patristic exegetical heritage, and modern biblical studies.

Liturgics 3 Credits

Spring of the first year

This course will explore the structures, content, theology, and ethos of the Church's Liturgy. It will also provide a fast but inclusive glimpse of the historical evolution of the liturgical rites. Furthermore, the Liturgy will be studied from pastoral, spiritual, and theological perspectives. The course seeks to provide the student with basic theological criteria for the comprehension of the whole liturgical tradition of the Church.

Clinical Pastoral Education 3 credits

Spring of the first year, fall of the second year

Pastoral Counseling: Theory and Practice in conjunction with the CPE course from RCCSCG (below)
Listening is at the heart of pastoral counseling. Yet what the pastor/minister hears is shaped by his or her theoretical orientation, belief system, worldview, and lived experience. This course seeks to give students the

opportunity to study different pastoral counseling theories as they go beyond the limits of their own stories in the context of practicing foundational counseling skills.

Clinical Pastoral Education (RockyMountain Center for Spiritual Care Givers)

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is professional education to teach about pastoral care to clergy and others for ministry. CPE is both a multicultural and interfaith experience that uses real-life ministry encounters of students to improve the ministry and pastoral care provided by them as caregivers.

CPE brings theological students and ministers of all faiths (pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, and others) into supervised discussions of encounters with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons, as well as the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of ministry. Within the interdisciplinary or team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and interprofessional relationships.

An underpinning theory of education that structures clinical pastoral education is the “Action-Reflection” mode of learning. CPE students typically compose “verbatim” of their pastoral care encounters, in which they are invited to reflect upon what occurred and draw insight from these reflections that can be implemented in future pastoral care events.

Preaching: Proclaiming the Kingdom 3 Credits

Fall of the second year

This course is a preparation for the ministry of proclaiming the word of the Kingdom. Students are exposed to the theology of preaching, and methods of interpretation, preparation, and production of sermons.

Lectures examine the listening assembly and the listening pulpit; the Liturgy and the homily; and experiencing and expressing the word. The emphasis is on the prophetic, as well as on the practical, dimension of preaching. While this course is taught in the fall semester, the practical segment continues in the spring semester.

Preaching Practicum 0 Credits

A required practicum for those enrolled in PAST 7201 in the current/previous semester.

Dogmatics III (Sacramental Theology) 3 Credits

Spring of the second year

The study of the seven holy sacraments: baptism, chrismation, Eucharist, ordination, matrimony, repentance, and unction in historical, liturgical, and dogmatic perspective.

GOVERNANCE

Responsibility for the overall administration of the Diaconate Program resides with the faculty of Holy Cross in cooperation with the Holy Eparchial Synod and the local Metropolitans who have candidates enrolled in the program. Each Metropolitan of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America serves as "Headmaster" for the candidates/candidates who reside within their Metropolis. Candidates/candidates are encouraged to maintain close contact with their Metropolitan before and throughout the program.

The four educational and formational components of the program have their supervisory framework. The faculty of Holy Cross is responsible for the 3 one-week summer educational sessions held on the campus of Holy Cross as well as administering each required course. The Metropolitan is responsible for designating Metropolis Fellowship Groups/Regional Fellowship Groups leaders to convene educational seminars and workshops for their respective metropolises. The Clergy Mentor is responsible for individual mentoring on the parish level in the areas of liturgical practice, pastoral activities, and parish administration.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

There are four main components to the program:

1. Summer Sessions and semester courses
2. Clergy Mentor and Candidate communication and required forms
3. Metropolis/Regional Fellowship Groups
4. Alumni retreat/Events and continued education

Summer Session General Information

The Summer Sessions of the Diaconate Program are administered directly by the faculty of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and provide the liturgical and theological content and context for the diaconal ministry. The Diaconate Program is usually completed within a period of three years, though candidates may take up to six years to complete all the requirements.

Candidates are required to complete three (3) eight-day summer sessions at Holy Cross in Brookline, MA. Each summer. Over three years, a candidate will be able to complete the entire cycle of courses regardless of when the candidate began the program.

The summer session is usually held during July. Each session begins on a Saturday and ends on the Sunday of the following week. A welcome gathering is held on the first Saturday at which Metropolitans, Clergy, Faculty, and Program Alumni are invited and welcome for food and fellowship and to support the attending candidates. Formal instruction starts on Sunday afternoon and ends in the early evening on Saturday of the following week. Candidates are encouraged to arrive on campus the Saturday before the start of the summer session.

Candidates are required to remain in residence at Holy Cross during the week. Each day begins with Orthros at 7:45 am and ends with Vespers at 5:00 pm and continues with evening lessons and fellowship.

General Information notes:

1. Clergy Mentors are to send in completed Clergy Mentor Annual Report Form 1 before the start of the second summer session and Form 2 before the start of the third summer session.
2. Candidates are to send in the completed Candidate Annual Journal Form 1 before the start of the second summer session and Form 2 before the start of the third summer session.
3. The Holy Cross Faculty Program Coordinator should have a dialog with each Metropolitan or Metropolis Chancellor to hear their evaluation and feedback on the annual Metropolis Fellowship Groups before the start of the summer sessions.
4. The Alumni Retreat is held in conjunction with the summer session.

CLERGY MENTOR AND REQUIRED FORMS

All Mentor and Candidate forms should be submitted directly to the Diaconate Program Coordinator.

1. Clergy Mentor (Clergy Mentor is assigned by the local Metropolitan)

Candidates work under the leadership of local mentors who contract to serve as guides and administrators. They are not teachers in the traditional sense of individuals who are expected to impart information about a particular theological discipline. The mentor is the person through whom the regional fellowship communicates and gives feedback to their respective Metropolitan and the Holy Cross Program Coordinator and Director of Outreach on how the candidate is doing. While the mentor works as an enabler rather than an informer, he is also responsible for training future deacons on how they will conduct their liturgical responsibilities. The primary role of the local mentor is to:

- Act as Regional Fellowship administrative liaison. These are regional groups of deacons, mentors, candidates, and diaconate program alumni that may include their families getting together for a casual get-together. It is encouraged that the clergy mentor and candidate participate in or host a regional group, but it is not required.
- Returns Annual Clergy Mentor Forms to HCHC before the session.
- Assist candidates to interpret and process any ambiguities with their understanding of the Orthodox Christian tradition.
- Conduct liturgical skill-training seminars.
- Expose candidates to other diaconal ministries.

Click on the links below to access and complete the required mentoring forms:

[Journal Report Form 1](#) - Due 1 month prior to Summer Session 2

[Journal Report Form 2](#) - Due 1 month prior to Summer Session 3

[Pastoral Care Visitation Form](#) - Due 1 month prior to Summer Session 3

[Clergy Mentor Form 1](#) - Due 1 month prior to Summer Session 2

[Clergy Mentor Form 2](#) - Due 1 month prior to Summer Session 3

CLERGY MENTOR, CANDIDATE, AND HOLY CROSS COMMUNICATION

Upon completion of each summer session, the candidate should discuss the sessions with the Clergy Mentor, and if possible with their Metropolitan. The Clergy Mentoring portion of the program shall begin as soon as a mentor has been assigned by the Metropolitan. The Diaconate Program Clergy Mentor Guidelines are in place to give a starting point for a Clergy Mentor and Candidate to open into honest dialog and communication.

Within the Clergy Mentor guidelines, there are two Clergy Mentor Annual Report Forms. These forms are designed to create a means for the Clergy Mentor to understand their critical role in the program and to offer a means to communicate how the candidate is growing and what they need to work on before being evaluated for ordination after completing the Diaconate Program. These forms are to be completed, signed, and sent to the Metropolis and Holy Cross Program Coordinator before each of the summer sessions (preferably sent one month before the summer session).

The overall goal of the Clergy Mentoring portion is to build a healthy Clergy Mentor relationship with the candidate that is honest, positive, and productive. Open and honest communication between the Metropolitan, Clergy Mentor, Candidate, and Holy Cross Program Coordinator is critical to keeping the program true to its goal. The goal is to support and teach individuals who hear God's call to serve the Orthodox Church as a humble Deacon.