

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
REQUIREMENTS FOR ACOLYTE RANKS**

[February 2013]

We will be initiating a ranking system for our Altar Boys. The purpose of the ranking system is to promote thorough knowledge on the part of the Acolytes. Below are the requirements for each rank. Eventually, Acolytes will be identified by rank (and according to rank) on the schedule (by virtue of their position). Acolytes are to obey those of higher rank and higher position. To be promoted to the next rank, they will be tested by Dean Harris, Brock Johns and Danny Thiros. Tests will not be offered unless the Acolyte is considered to be ready. Preparation for the next rank includes speaking/demonstrating about the specifics for each requirement and being thoroughly knowledgeable of those specifics. Tests for each rank may include requirements for previous and present ranks.



1st Rank (Saint Jude):

1. Know how to prepare at home before coming to Church
2. Know how to enter the Altar (blessing of priest), how to (and when not to) cross behind the Altar and where not to go in the Altar
3. Know how and when to do the sign of the Cross (& meaning of the Cross: 3 fingers; 2 fingers)



2nd Rank (Saint Thomas):

1. Know how to receive Holy Communion & Antidoron
2. Know how and when to kneel during the Liturgy
3. Memorize the Lord's Prayer



3rd Rank (Saint Bartholomew):

1. Know which Icons are on the Iconostasion & their order
2. Know the names of the three sections of the Church
3. Know the various Procession Routes and places where we stand (The Little Entrance, The Apostolic Readings, The Great Entrance)



4th Rank (Saint Phillip):

1. Know the general outline of the Divine Liturgy
2. Know where we are in the book at all times during the Divine Liturgy
3. Know what to do after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy





5th Rank (Saint Andrew):

- 1. Know the ranks of the Clergy (Deacon, Priest, Bishop)
- 2. Know how to address the Priest, Deacon, Bishop, Metropolitan, Archbishop
- 3. Where is our Metropolitan located? (Name?) Archbishop? (Name?) Patriarch? (Name?)



6th Rank (Saint James The Lesser):

- 1. Know the various titles within the individual ranks of Clergy (including: Archdeacon; Protopresbyter; Archimandrite; Metropolitan; Archbishop; Patriarch)
- 2. Know the names of each of the clerical vestments
- 3. Memorize the Creed



7th Rank (Saint James – The Greater):

- 1. Know what is in the Holy Altar and in the Church (and where located)
- 2. Know which items are on the Holy Altar table
- 3. Know when & how to bring the Zeon to the Altar Table



8th Rank (Saint Peter):

- 1. Know which items are on the Prothesis
- 2. Know the purpose of the Proskomide (the portions of the Prosforon used)
- 3. Know the Sacred Vessels (Chalice & Paten, Spear & Spoon, Star, Cloth Coverings, Red Communion Cloth, Cruets)



9th Rank (Saint John):

- 1. Know how to maintain the censor (including when to take it to the Priest, how to give/receive it and how to use it during the Divine Liturgy)
- 2. Know where the Communion Prayers are found and explain the purpose of these prayers
- 3. Know how to assist with Holy Communion (including censor afterwards)



10th Rank (Saint Luke):

- 1. Know the Acolyte's responsibilities for the Divine Liturgy
- 2. Know the acolyte's responsibilities for the Orthros
- 3. Know the acolyte's responsibilities for the Memorial & Trisagion services





11th Rank (Saint Matthew):

1. Know the acolyte's responsibilities for the Hierarchical service
2. Know the duties for the Sacristans



12th Rank (Saint Paul):

1. Know the Church Calendar Year
2. Know the 8 Tones Seasons

