

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad
Ann Arbor, MI ~ Founded 1981

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Rector

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Parish Instructional letter 01/23

November 24/December 7, 2023
Great Martyr Catherine

With thanks to God for our growing clergy brotherhood in our St. Vladimir Parish, this letter is issued to assist all our parish clergy to harmonize our service to the Lord and to align us, to the greatest extent possible, to the norms of the Russian Orthodox Church. It is understood that each clergyman will serve with some idiosyncrasies. But these should be minimized. We should, as a rule, all strive to serve to a set standard, and this will be especially important as, God willing, our clergy brotherhood continues to grow.

- A) When using “Lands of Rus” we should also use the appropriate pronoun: they/their/them. This requires a change to the printed Sluzhebnik.
- B) Young children, less than seven years old, should not be brought into the altar unless there is an extreme or emergent reason to do so
- C) In the months when the temperature drops below freezing it is important to prop open the bathroom doors before leaving for the night. Otherwise it is possible for the pipes to freeze
- D) Men who read the Epistle should do so wearing a sticharion, even if not a Reader or Subdeacon. This must be arranged before the beginning of the Divine Liturgy
- E) The Lord’s Prayer is sung in both Church Slavonic and English at the Divine Liturgy
- F) The carpet in front of the Altar should be vacuumed and cleaned with adhesive paper each Sunday. This would be done best by a Subdeacon if at all possible.
- G) The area in front of the Table of Oblation should be swept after the Great Entrance at each Divine Liturgy. There is a dedicated brush and dust pan hanging under the Table of Oblation for this purpose. The crumbs should be disposed of in the garden.
- H) Priests should be careful not to touch the censer with the chalice covers at the end of the Proskomidia. The censer is generally dusty and this dust should be kept off the covers
- I) Priests, when raising their hands at the appointed times during the Divine Services, should do so as if they were holding a beach ball (allowing for this angle of their hands and the width they hold their hands apart)
- J) When approaching to partake of the Body of Christ the altar should be venerated before putting one’s hands into the form of a cross to receive the Body
- K) All serving clergymen should remain near the altar after the communing of the last deacon to allow for all to listen to the thanksgiving prayers together
- L) Infants are communed with a wet spoon only. There should be no body and no excess blood in the spoon with which an infant is communed, to minimize the opportunity for choking
- M) The prayer “Lo, this has touched thy lips...” is specific to communing the deacons and should not be said after the communing of the people.
- N) If a priest is serving alone, at the end of the Divine Liturgy he does not pick up the discos before blessing the faithful with the chalice for the last time and saying “Now and ever and unto the ages...”. Rather, this blessing is accomplished only with the chalice. The priest then turns to the altar, takes up the discos, and proceeds immediately to the Table of Oblation

O) A candle is placed before the Gifts once they are placed on the Table of Oblation



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Rector, St Vladimir Orthodox Church

