

The Function of Deaconess under our Jurisdiction

The Office of Deaconess is a special Ordination. She is empowered to perform the following functions:

1. Assist at Holy Baptism when administered to women and children
2. Conduct Prayer Services, such as devotionals, as assigned by the pastor or bishop
3. In case of a life-threatening situation, a deaconess can perform Holy Baptism
4. Deliver sermons if so qualified and assigned
5. Help with the distribution of the Holy Gifts (Communion) to women and children, both inside and outside of Liturgy (e.g., Communion to the sick)
6. Assist with pastoral care and counseling if approved by the bishop. This typically requires prior theological and pastoral training (such as seminary schooling or a degree in theology).
7. Serve as Cantor and Reader if so assigned
8. A Deaconess is considered clergy and hence may wear clerical attire when appropriate as well as liturgical vestments, similar to those of male deacons

Please note that neither a deacon nor a deaconess may ever perform Holy Matrimony, Holy Unction, Confirmation, Divine Liturgy and Ordination, since such only a priest or bishop may validly perform.