

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR DEACONS IN...

A. The Reconciliation of a Penitent:

Rubrics are found on page 446 BCP. Deacons may hear the private confession of a penitent in the context of the church. The absolution in these services may be pronounced only by a bishop or priest. The Deacon shall offer a "Declaration of Forgiveness" found on pages 448 & 452 BCP.

B. Baptisms & Weddings

Baptism: Rubrics for Baptism are found on pages 298, 312 & 313 BCP. When a Priest or Bishop is present, the Deacon *may* immerse or pour water upon a candidate (see page 307 BCP).

According to the rubrics (pg 312 BCP) "If on any one of the above-named days the ministry of a bishop or priest cannot be obtained, the bishop may specially authorize a deacon to preside. In that case, the deacon omits the prayer over the candidates, page 308, and the formula and action which follow."

Emergency Baptism: in the case of emergency, any baptized person may administer Baptism according to the form found on page 313-314 BCP. Important to carefully follow the rubric found on page 314 BCP.

Marriage: Rubrics for Marriage are found on pages 422, 435-438 BCP. Where it is permitted by civil law (as in Georgia) and no priest or bishop is available, a deacon may use the Marriage service found on page 423 BCP, omitting the nuptial blessing which follows The Prayers.

It is most appropriate to receive the permission of your Bishop prior to performing a wedding in this diocese. If the wedding is to occur in another diocese, you are to secure the permission of your Bishop AND the Bishop of the diocese in which the wedding will take place.

C. Communion from the Reserved Sacrament:

When the services of a priest cannot be obtained, the bishop may, at discretion, authorize a deacon to distribute Holy Communion to the congregation from the reserved Sacrament in the following manner: BCP 408-409

D. Deacons Preaching:

You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world (BCP543). Sermons should last about 10-15 minutes. You should strive to teach, inspire and motivate (St. Augustine).

E. Ministration at the Time of Death:

This liturgy may be conducted by a bishop, priest or deacon, as per the

rubrics found throughout the service (BCP 462).

F. The Burial of the Dead:

Rubrics are found on pages 468/490, 506-7. When the services of a priest cannot be obtained, or when specifically requested by the family and approved by the priest, a deacon or lay reader may preside at the service (BCP 468).