

The Installation of a Parish Council

After “Blessed be the Name of the Lord ...” near the end of the Divine Liturgy, the members of the Parish Council are called forward by the Priest and stand on the solea facing the holy table. The Priest, holding the book of the holy Gospels, stands in the holy doors facing the congregation and says:

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

He then instructs each member of the Parish Council to insert his Christian name at the appropriate place and to repeat these words after him.

I, (*Christian name*), do hereby assert, God being my Helper, that I will, to the best of my ability, work and deliberate for the doing of God’s holy will in my capacity as a member of the Parish Council of this Church of (*insert the name of the local church*). I will take as my sure and certain guide in this holy endeavor the God-inspired Scriptures and the traditions and canons of the Holy Orthodox Church of Christ as set forth by the Seven Holy Oecumenical Councils and those Regional Councils approved by them. To this holy endeavor, I commit myself, and, with the supplications and intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos and all the Saints, I pray the guidance and inspiration of the all-holy and good and life-giving Spirit of God. As token of this, I kiss the book of the holy Gospels, the saving words of our Lord and God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Priest then intones the following.

Grant, O Lord, a peaceful life, health, salvation and furtherance in all good things to Thy servants (*insert their Christian names*), and preserve them for many years.

As the choir sings the “Many Years,” the members of the Parish Council kiss the book of the holy Gospels and the Priest’s right hand, and return to their places in the congregation. The Divine Liturgy is then ended as usual.