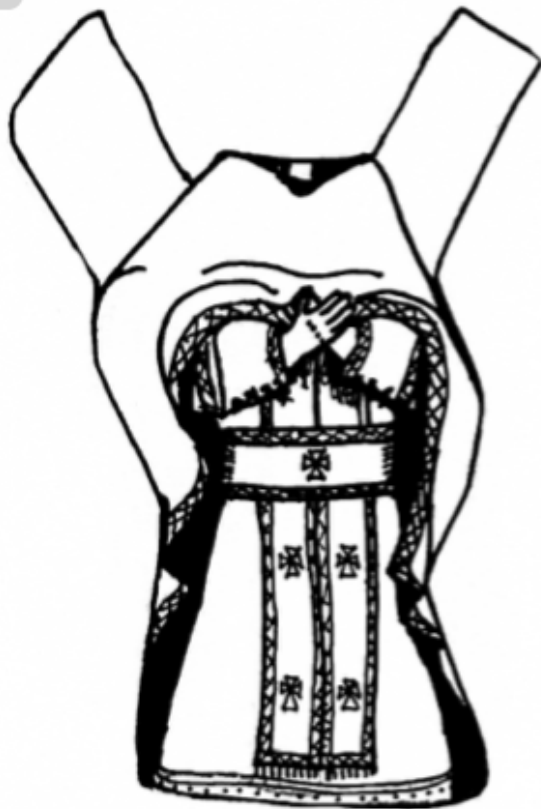


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PRIEST

*Epitrachelion:* The epitrachelion, like the orarion of the deacon, is the kind of stole that a priest wears around his neck. It is attached by buttons down the front and is decorated with fringe and each fiber of that fringe represents a soul who is entrusted to his care. It is the breastplate of the priest who, like a warrior, must stand between his flock and the enemy. When he puts on his epitrachelion he prays, *"Blessed is God Who poureth out his grace upon His priests, like unto the oil of myrrh upon the head, which runneth down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, which runneth down to-the fringe of his raiment"* (Psalm 132:2).

*Zone (Belt):* The zone is tied at the waist and reminds the priest that he is tied to Christ and must be ever ready to serve Him. When he puts on his belt he prays, *"Blessed is God, Who girded me with power, and hath made my path blameless..."* (Psalm 47:32-33).

*Phelonion:* The phelonion is worn kind of like a cape, and represents the robe that Christ wore when he was mocked by the Roman soldiers. It also reminds the priest of the righteousness of Jesus. When he puts it on he says, *"Let Thy Priest be clothed with righteousness; and let Thy Saints shout for joy, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. (Psalm 132: 9)*



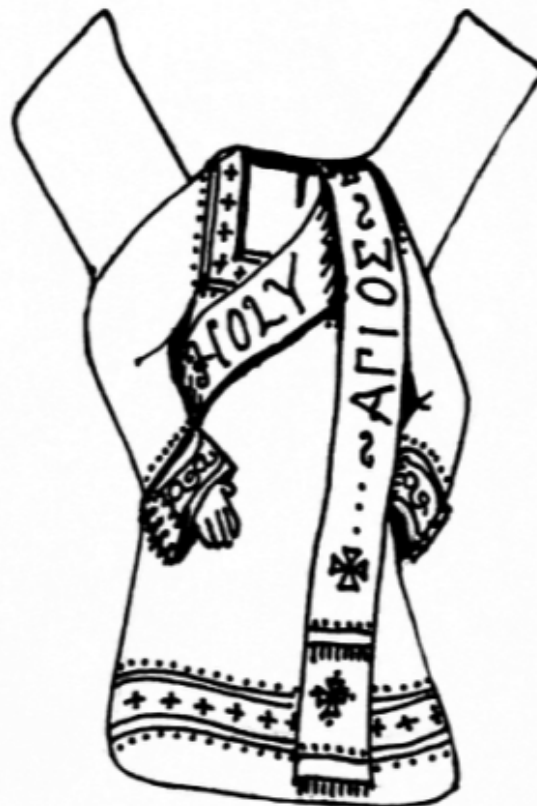
DEACON

*Orarion:* When a deacon is ordained he receives an Orarion, a stole that he wears, crossed upon the breast and back, sometimes embroidered with the words, Holy, Holy, Holy, the song of the angels before the Throne of God. This garment symbolizes the wings of the angels and is worn over one shoulder as a sign of the Holy Spirit coming upon the deacon, but over both shoulders of a priest as his office requires a double portion of that grace. You may notice that angels in iconography are sometimes depicted wearing the Orarion.

*Epimanikia, or Cuffs:* Deacons also wear the Cuffs (as do the Priests and Bishops) to remind him that he must not put his trust in his own strength alone, but in God, and the cords which bind them represent the cords with which Christ was bound.

He puts the right cuff on first, praying, *"Thy right hand, O Lord, is glorified in strength; Thy right hand, O Lord, hath vanquished the enemy, and in the multitude of Thy glory hast Thou crushed the adversaries (Ex. 15:6).*

And then the left cuff praying, *"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me..."* (Ps. 118:73)



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