

St Phoebe Center for the Deaconess

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her on September 3.

Deaconesses were ordained at the altar and carried out many duties in addition to assisting with women's baptisms. These roles included administration, supervision at Liturgy, taking charge of properties, reporting to the Bishop, providing pastoral care to women, visiting the sick, sheltering guests, and more, depending on need and location. During the Byzantine era, the diaconate office, particularly that of women, flourished, but for reasons not always understood, the deaconess order largely fell out of use except in rare instances.

Today, we are exposed only to the male diaconate, which has mostly been reduced to a liturgical function. In some jurisdictions and churches, deacons are completely absent; thus, the entire office of the diaconate is often misunderstood.

This section provides an expansive number of resources to help the faithful better understand the ordained order of the diaconate, and the rich potential that is possible—for both men and women—with its revival.

[History](#) / [Calls for Revival](#) / [Deaconesses Today](#) / [Why This Matters](#) / [Common Questions](#)



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