

“ASK THE DEACON” – THIS WEEK’S QUESTION: *Why do the church bells ring during the consecration, and is there any other time during Liturgy that they are supposed to ring?*

ANSWER: The ringing of church bells is a matter of custom and can differ from church to church. Bells are rung as a signal for church services and events, or at specific moments during services. Since what we pray is what we believe, we look to the Ritual Prayer Book of Byzantine churches and what it tells us about bells. Here is part of the service for *The Blessing, Naming, and Anointing of a Bell*:

With Your heavenly blessing and the grace of the Your All-consecrating Spirit, now bless (+) this bell and consecrate it, and send down upon it the power of Your grace, that Your faithful servants, having heard the voice of its peal, may be strengthened in piety and faith, and with courage, may oppose all the slanders of the devil, and overcome them by prayer and by the everlasting glorification of You, the True God; and that with haste, day and night, they might be led to the church in prayer and glorification of Your holy Name.

The Priest names each bell, saying: In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, you shall be called by the name (N.), according to the grace granted to us from the life-creating Spirit. ...

And the Priest anoints the bell with Holy Chrism, saying: To the glory of the holy Trinity, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.