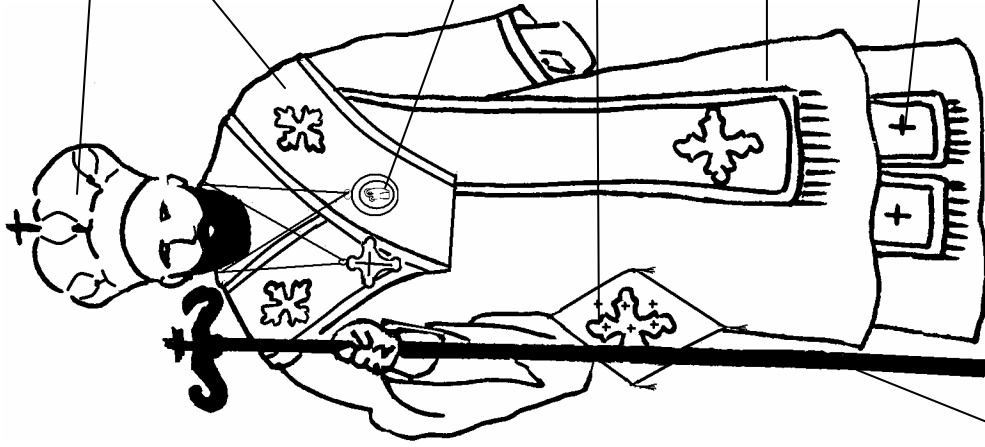


Bishop's Vestments



MITRE – Crown. The sign of the bishop's authority in the Church.

OMOPHORION – wraps around his shoulders; symbol of episcopal authority; represents the lost sheep Jesus, the Good Shepherd took upon His shoulders to bring to the Father.

PANAGIA – an icon of Jesus and His mother Mary, the Theotokos, reminds the bishop to keep his heart pure.

EPIGONATION – Rectangular stiff cloth suspended from the belt; reaches the knee; signifies the power of fighting the enemies of the Church.

SAKKOS – reminds us of the seamless robe the soldiers took from Jesus; signifies the humbleness of a shepherd.

STOLE or EPITRACHELION – signifies the Grace of the priesthood; worn by priests & bishop at all ceremonies and sacraments.

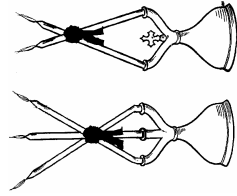
STAFF – sign of his spiritual authority; like the staff of a shepherd; the shepherd who guards us.

TRIPLE CANDLE / TRIKIRI

represents the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

DOUBLE CANDLE / DIKIRI

represents Christ as fully God and fully man.



When Metropolitan Maximos Visits

Orthodox Bishops can trace their ordinations to the Apostles – Apostolic Succession. Their task over the centuries has been to preserve the purity of the faith and guard against false teaching. It was the Bishops who attended the Ecumenical Councils, who, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, clarified and codified the teachings of who is Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Holy Trinity. As one Church Father said, “Where the bishop is, there is the church. Nothing is to be done without the bishop’s blessing.”



The Bishop is also the Shepherd of his Diocese, just as Christ was the Good Shepherd. The Omophorion represents the sheep that the Good Shepherd has over his shoulders, and in times past, was woven from lamb’s wool to maintain the metaphor.

HYMNS RELATED TO THE METROPOLITAN

Eis Polla - Many Years

Eis /pol-la/ e-ti/ Des- po-ta/ Many years to you, Master.

Ton Despoti – The Bishop / Archbishop / Metropolitan

Ton Des-po-ti / ke/ Ar-hi-e-re-a/ i-mon/ Ky-ri-e /fi-lat-te/ Eis /pol-la /e-ti / Des-po-ta / (3x)

Lord, protect our master & hierarch. / Many years to you, Master.

Fimi Metropolitan Maximos

Ma-xi-mou / tu /se-vas-mi-o-ta-tu

Ke /The-o-pro-vli-tu / Mi-tro-po-li-tu

Tis/ a-yio-ta-tis/ Mi-tro-po-leos/ Pitts-burgh

i-mon /dhe/Pa-tros/ ke / pi-me-nar-hu/ po-la-/ta/e-ti

Maximos, the Most-Reverend and God-Chosen Metropolitan of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh, our Spiritual Father and Shepherd, many years.