

Men's Services

Many men prefer taking an active, collaborative role over a passive role. They develop their sense of community and belonging by identifying with a team that comes together to solve a problem, deliver a product, address a need, or even play a sports game.

For this type of man, asking them to **serve is a means to bring them into the fold and engage them in Church life, for both their benefit and the benefit of the church.** From the perspective of the Brave Men Parish Ministry, this fact is the **key to success.** Specifically, the actual product of the service that men are invited to participate in is actually *secondary* to their active participation in the service and developing an enthusiastic team spirit.

For this reason, the selection of services in this particular ministry may or may not overlap with the standard set of Church services, e.g. Korban, and could motivate, based on interests and available skills in subgroups of men in a given Church community, new and non-standard services, e.g. grounds maintenance. For a successful outcome, at least two criteria must be considered in the man-to-service matching process:

1. Ensure the person is **passionate about the specific service and has the basic skills to be successful:** most men don't take failure well, so to keep them engaged and eager to participate on a regular basis they must feel valuable and successful.
2. **Personal chemistry among team members:** generally men are **not** drama queens and are able to play any role within the team as circumstances demand. However, men can easily find themselves descending into rivalry that harms the team and the service. For example multiple Type-A personalities in the same team can result in friction and disintegration of the team. In such instances consider splitting the group into subteams of compatible persons and personalities and assign them to serve on alternate schedules, e.g. every other week, or different subservices, e.g. front vs back yard maintenance.

Management of the team should be internal to the team but with distant-supervision by the priest or service coordinator to monitor the health of the team spirit and resolve emerging issues before they develop into actual breakdowns.

Finally, the efforts of each team must be recognized publicly on occasion, for example by Abouna thanking the team that takes care of [some service] during the announcements after the Divine Liturgy.

Non-exhaustive list of potential services to involve men in:

- Korban service should show how to make the korban and what everyone should be doing during the service (such as what psalms to read etc...).
- Greeter services
- Landscaping Services
- Cleaning services
- Food services
- Deacon Services
- Altar Services (candles, general maintenance)
- Evangelism - through the men's ministry
- Outside of Church services (foodbanks, nursing homes, hospitals, jails)
- General maintenance of facilities and equipment
- Construction projects