

July 1, 2009

Dear Parent,

Thank you for supporting your child in their ministry to serve at Mass.

Whether your child has been serving for many years or just beginning, our goal is to help them to become better servers by knowing what to do at Mass and understanding why we do the things we do. The most important thing is practice! Whenever we gather the servers together for Server Training and Ministry Enrichment, we will pray together, we will talk about what happens at Mass, and we will practice some aspect of their ministry so that when they serve on Sunday, even though they may be nervous and forget, their bodies will remember where to go and what to do.

When we met with the servers in the beginning of May for Ministry Enrichment, we learned about the different ministries at Mass, we practiced carrying the processional cross, holding the book, and carrying the candles and we talked about how important it was that the servers listen, pray and sing with the assembly.

Carrying the Cross and the Candles

When there are three servers present at Mass, one server will be the cross bearer and the other two servers will be candle bearers in the processions. The cross bearer is the server who helps Father with the book and the candle bearers are the servers who assist him at the altar.

When there are two servers at a Mass, we will NOT carry the candles in procession. The cross bearer is the server who helps Father with the book and both servers assist at the altar.

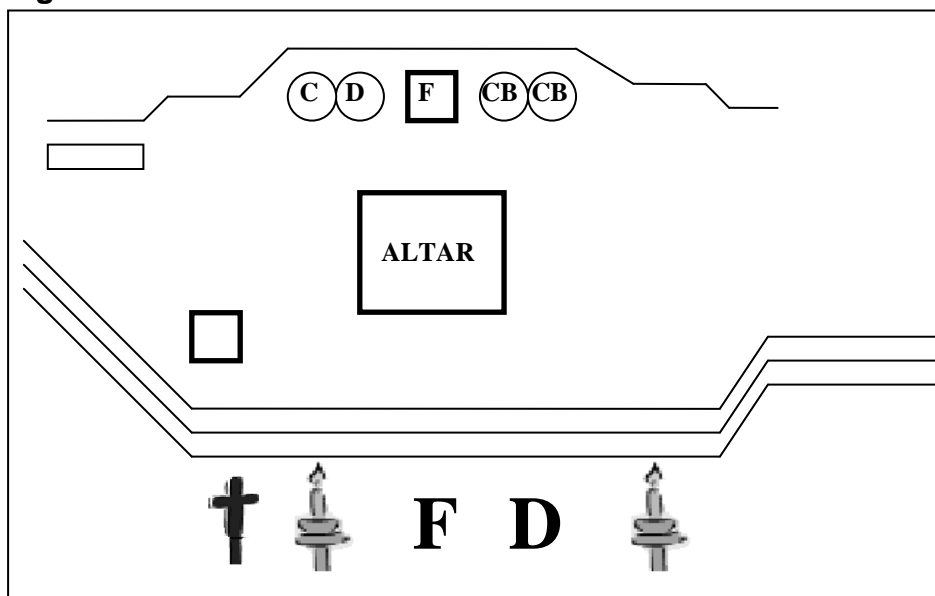


CROSS BEARER
(assists Father with the book)



CANDLE BEARERS
(assist Father at the altar)

Diagram 1



Candle Bearer (CB)



Cross Bearer (C)

F

Father (F)

D

Deacon (D)

If you are a candle bearer at Mass:

- Get the candles from the altar before the gathering procession begins and bring them to the gathering space.
- Light the candles if they are not lit.
- When the procession begins, follow the cross bearer and walk together, side by side.
- Make sure that you hold the candles straight and at the SAME HEIGHT.
- When you get to the steps of the sanctuary, one server goes to the left and the other goes to the right (see diagram 1). DO NOT BOW. Wait for Father to bow and then walk up the sanctuary steps and place the candles in the holders.
- Go to your chair.
- Assist Father at the altar.
- At the end of the Mass, get the candle that you put by the altar.
- When the procession begins, follow the cross bearer and walk together, side by side.
- Make sure that you hold the candles straight and at the SAME HEIGHT
- When you get to the gathering space, extinguish your candle with the candle snuffer.
- WAIT for the closing song to end and return your candle to the sanctuary by the altar.



Listening, Praying and Singing at Mass

When the assembly prays, the servers should be praying.

When the assembly listens, the servers should be listening.

When the assembly sings, the servers should be singing.

So that your child can pray with the assembly, please help your child to know by heart the prayers that we say at Mass. This is a requirement for all servers and copies are included with this note:

- The **Confiteor** (*used during the Penitential Rite in Lent*)
- The **Gloria** (*recited or sung every Sunday EXCEPT during Advent and Lent*)
- The **Nicene Creed** (*recited every Sunday*)
- The **People's Prayers during Preparation of the Gifts** (*when there is no song*)
- The **Holy, Holy**
- The **Memorial Acclamations**
- The **Our Father**
- The **Lamb of God**

We will meet in August/September for Server Training and Ministry Enrichment so that we can continue to learn together, to pray together and to practice together.

Thank you!

Joann C. Reier
Director of Liturgy and RCIA

Prayers to Know

The Confiteor (used for the Penitential Rite during Lent)

*I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;
and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.*

The Gloria (recited or sung every Sunday EXCEPT during Advent and Lent)

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Nicene Creed (recited every Sunday)

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
[bow during the next two lines:]
by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The People's Prayers during Preparation of the Gifts *(when there is no song)*

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

[If there is no singing during the preparation of the gifts, the priest may say the preceding prayers aloud, and the people may respond. But if a preparation song is being sung, the priest recites these prayers quietly, and the people's response is omitted. Then, after the priest has washed his hands and the music is finished, he invites the people to join in prayer:]

Priest: Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

The Holy, Holy *(the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer)*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Memorial Acclamations *(during the Eucharistic Prayer)*

Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: A - Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

or B - Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

*or C - When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.*

or D - Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the World.

The Our Father *(the beginning of the Communion Rite)*

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

The Lamb of God *(during the breaking of the bread)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.