

Crossbearer Instructions

Generally speaking, the cross is responsible for mentoring the other servers on his/her team. That mentoring is especially helpful when it is subtle.

The cross will lead the procession, walking reverently, holding the Crucifix- **as high as is comfortable**. As you get to the carpeting steps, pause, to count to 3- to allow the others to close the gap behind you.

After bowing, return the Crucifix and go to the kneelers.

After the 2nd Reading, make sure the torch, at the kneelers, retrieves their candle to go to the carpeting in front of the altar.

Immediately after the lector finishes the Prayers of the Faithful, you and the torches will go to the credence table- when all are ready, the 3 of you will approach the altar together – you **will have the chalice- and will be on the right**.

After the chalice is on the altar, you will receive the cruet- to go with Father to receive the gifts. You will be **on his left**- to receive the wine. As you return to the altar, you will wait for Father to grab the purificatory or chalice. At that moment, you will step up on the altar, to go directly to him. After handing him the wine, hand him the water. Then **bow** and turn to step off the altar- **to bow together with the torch**- before going to the back to the credence table.

After the Holy, Holy, Holy, all servers will kneel. You are watching Father's extended hands. **As soon as he begins to bring his hands together**, he will extend them over the chalice- for you to **ring the bells once**.

After he says "This will be given up for you", he will raise the Sacred Body. You will ring the bells, loudly, 3 times- with a **distinct pause** between each ring.

After he says "Do this in memory of Me", he will raise the Precious Blood. The bells, again, are rung 3 times with a **distinct pause**.

During the Sign of Peace, take the sanitizer to the altar- **as the book brings the communion bowl**. Then, bow together, before returning to the kneelers. All the servers **should be kneeling** as Father is preparing for communion at the altar.

As Father drinks from his chalice, all servers leave the kneelers to walk, single file, **directly behind the altar**- so he doesn't have to step off to distribute communion.

After praying- after you receive communion, retrieve the sanitizer from the altar- **and gather a water cruet. As Father returns to the sanctuary**, you, with the cruet, and a torch approach the altar.

You both will remain at the altar, waiting for the Eucharistic ministers to return. **Father may begin to purify the vessels while he is waiting.** At his signal, walk up on the altar to pour water over his fingers into the vessel.

We bow from the waist as the Tabernacle doors close. The two of you **will remain at the altar** until the torch has the ciboria- and you have the communion bowl. Then you bow together- and then, **you return, alone, to retrieve the dressed chalice.**

As Father says “go to the mass is ended”, gather the Crucifix to walk to the center aisle. After Father genuflects, turn and walk to the back of church with your eyes forward.

Stay in the back of church until the singing stops. **Then make sure: the candles are extinguished; the credence table is cleared; and the bells and missals are returned to the sacristy- before anyone unvests.**