

THURIBLE PROTOCOL (11/23/20)

* **15 minutes before Mass begins: please light two charcoals.**

The best way to light charcoals: light a piece of wick and put a charcoal in the tongs in one hand, and with your other, light the "sharper" edges of the charcoal. (Blowing on the lit charcoal will speed up the process.) Once **all** the charcoal's edges (not covered by the tong) are well lit, place that charcoal in the thurible and repeat procedure for the second piece. Place stand on "chair" side of sanctuary.

- 1) Immediately before the entrance procession, (inside the "Nave") bring the thurible and "boat" (container of incense) to Father for him to impose incense. (The preferred method is to hold the thurible at the top of the chain in your right hand and the boat in your left hand.)

After **bowing**, hand the boat to Father. Then, with your left-hand, lift the lid - at the wooden handle, as you raise it with your right hand- so Father can impose the incense easily. As Father returns the boat to you, **BOW** to him.

You will set the pace of the procession (walking reverently). Hold the thurible in the middle of the chain in your left hand swinging it back-and-forth reverently, as you walk to the altar steps. Then wait 3-4 seconds, (to allow others to close ranks) to **bow** to the altar. Proceed to the tabernacle steps (on credence table side) and wait for Father to reverence (kiss) the altar.

- 2) When Father turns toward you, walk quickly (without rushing) to him and **BOW** before handing him the boat (repeating the method you used before Mass). When Father returns the boat to you, hand him the thurible (holding it at the top of the chain). While he incenses the altar (and maybe other places), remain stationary- to the right of the Altar. When he is finished, he will return the thurible to you. You then **BOW** to him and, **BOW, again** as you pass the Tabernacle as you return the thurible and boat to its stand (on the chair side sanctuary) before you sit in the chair closest to the door.
- 3) As soon as the **Second** Reading ends, quickly gather the thurible and boat (without rushing), to go directly to the priest. **Do not wait until he stands up.** Repeat the incensation procedure as before. With the thurible (and boat), proceed to the end of carpet in front of Altar (on Ambo side) to wait for deacon or priest to retrieve Book of Gospels. Once he steps down and turns toward the Ambo, lead him to it. Then stand directly behind him.

After he says, "*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____*," he will turn to you to receive the thurible from you to incense the Gospel Book. **BOW** and keep the boat. After he finishes, he will return thurible to you. Then **BOW**. Remain directly behind him, (gently swinging the thurible) until the Gospel is finished. Then **ADD A NEW charcoal in the hallway and** break up existing contents with the spoon and put lit coal on top). When done, return the thurible and boat to the stand. Then, return to the "chair" side of sanctuary for the homily. **After homily**, carefully move the stand- thru the hallway- to other side of sanctuary- to left of Tabernacle steps.

- 4) After the **intercessions**, bring the thurible and boat with you and proceed to the same spot you stood as mass started and wait. **Before** Father washes his hands, he will incense the prepared Altar. If a deacon is present, give the thurible to the deacon who will give it to the priest. Then approach Father, **BOW** and give him the boat (repeating the same procedure). After Father incenses the altar, he will give the thurible to the deacon, who will then incense Father (and any concelebrants) **AND** the congregation. Wait where you are- until the thurible is returned to you, and then **BOW**.

If there isn't a deacon, **you** will do the incensations. After Father finishes with the Altar, quickly step up on Altar to incense Father. **Leave boat on the steps**. The procedure is a reverent series of **3 double swings**. (Center, then left, then right.) Then any concelebrants, and then the congregation. (To incense the congregation, walk to the front of the altar. **Motion** the congregation **to stand**. After they stand, **bow** to them, and use the same reverent series of 3 double swings. When you have finished, **bow** to them and return thurible and boat to the thurible stand.

- 5) After the final blessing, **you add two spoons** of incense to the thurible. **(Leave the boat on the stand)** and wait for the other servers- to lead them to the center aisle to prepare for the final procession. As Father genuflects, turn to walk to the back of church. Continue to hold the thurible in the middle of the chain- in your left hand- while swinging it (reverently) back and forth- as you lead the procession to the back of the church.

Upon your return to the sacristy, put all the contents of the thurible in the metal bucket on the floor.