

Thurifer Procedures

Preparing for Mass

- *Attire...dress as you would...when serving as Acolyte
- *Arrive inside church at a minimum 45 minutes before the start of Mass.
- *Position Censer Stand near Ambo/Lectern/Pulpit. You will need easy access to return boat before Gospel reading.

Gather the following in Sacristy:

- *Thurible... (Metal censer suspended from chains)
 - Contains 4 items: Base; Tray; Top; Chains
 - If necessary, you may need to clean out any unburnt coals from the tray. You can dispense the coals directly in to the trash...please insure coals have been cooled. If not...place in sink, flow water over them.
 - Lighter...make certain it flames
 - Boat...contains the incense. Fill boat with incense
 - Spoon...position spoon in boat
 - Charcoal...2 discs

Lighting of charcoal...10 minutes prior to start of Mass or Procession Service

- Use tongs...with Star facing down...hold charcoal disc below countertop level.
- Place lighter on underside of disc...the charcoal will flare...sparks will come off disc...continue to light until sparks have stopped. Slightly blow on disc to insure it is burning
- Place charcoal disc inside tray...star side facing up.
- Place charcoal discs side by side...not on top of each other
- close top...exit Sacristy...start to 'swing' thurible

Incensation (The offering of Incense)

Thurification or Incensation is an expression of reverence and of prayer, as is signified in Sacred Scripture...Psalm 141; Revelation 8:3

1. During the entrance procession;
2. At the beginning of Mass; to incense the cross and the altar;
3. At the procession before the Gospel and the proclamation of the Gospel itself;
4. After the bread and the chalice have been placed on the altar; as well as the Priest and the people;
5. At the elevation of the host and the chalice after the Consecration.

During the Entrance Procession

- * Priest will add incense to the thurible; just prior to the Procession.
- * If Deacon present...give him the Boat; if not...hand the Boat to Priest
- * Lift top and hold open for filling of tray
- * **REMEMBER...HOLD OPEN UNTIL Priest Blesses Incense**
- * You will lead the Procession to the Altar
- * As you lead the Procession...you WILL swing the Thurible.
- * It is NOT necessary for you to bow at the altar... (You are holding something)...you may stop and slightly tilt head downward.
- * Go up towards the right side. Proceed to other side of altar... Standing to the left edge (as you face Congregation) of the Altar. Stop Swinging Thurible

At the beginning of Mass; to incense the Cross and the Altar

- * After Priest kisses altar...proceed toward Priest...if Deacon present, he will take Boat
- * Lift top for filling
- * **Remember...hold open until Blessing complete**
- * Close top...Priest will usually take chain in Left hand...as they will swing with right arm.
- * Return to position at the left of the Altar...standing far enough away from Altar to allow Priest to pass while incensing.
- * At completion of Incensing...proceed to Priest...receive thurible...place boat on bracket...hang thurible...proceed to seat.

At the Procession before the Gospel and the Proclamation of the Gospel itself

- * At the conclusion of the 2nd Reading; proceed to the Altar...take Boat and Thurible directly to Priest.
- * Lift top for filling with incense
- * **Remember...Hold up until Blessing complete**
- * You will go to the Left side of the Altar...STOP
- * After Priest or Deacon proceeds to the Ambo...you will lead; stay ahead approximately 5 feet.
- * **IMPORTANT...Place Boat on Censer Stand while walking to ambo**
- * Go behind ambo...after Priest-Deacon trace small cross on forehead, lips, and heart...they will turn for thurible.
- * Walk towards him with thurible...give thurible; preferably in their left hand.
- * Step back....

- *They will incense the Book of Gospels...turn towards you...you will receive thurible
- *Step back from Ambo...adjust chain on thurible to elevate.
- *S-L-O-W-L-Y swing thurible front to back motion
- *After Gospel complete...and response given from Congregation...Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ...place thurible on Censer Stand

After the Gifts have been received and placed on the Altar; Incense the Priest as well as the people

- *As the Priest is receiving the gifts of bread and wine...proceed to the Altar.
- *Pick up Boat and Thurible
- *Proceed towards Priest as he is getting ready to lay the Pall on top of his chalice.
- *If Deacon present...hand him the Boat...Priest to fill Thurible
- *Remember...hold open until Blessing Complete**
- *Step back...gifts on the Altar to be blessed with Incense; Deacon to bless Priest; Deacon to bless Congregation....

NO DEACON...?

****After Priest fills the Boat... **(Return Boat to Censer Stand)** proceed to the Right side of the Altar...stay back about 5 Feet; as he Incenses the Altar. (Also...Altar Server to stay back with Lavabo... (Water) and Towel. (The Priest does not handle anything after cleansing...the washing...confirms the Priests desire to be cleansed from sin...purified....)

******You will Incense the Priest.**

---Begin with a profound Bow towards the Priest
 ---3 swings of the Thurible...stop...3 swings of the Thurible....**PRACTICE**

******You will Incense the Congregation**

---Go to the front of the Altar
 ---A Profound Bow...to the Center of the Congregation
 ---3 Sings of the Thurible...while staying in Place turn to the Left; 3 swings of the Thurible...while staying in Place turn to the right; 3 swings of the Thurible.
 ---Turn towards the center of the Congregation...end with a Profound Bow
 *Go directly to the Censer Stand and hang Thurible

At the Elevation of the Host and the Chalice after the Consecration

*Sanctus Prayer..."Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of Power and Might. Heaven and Earth are full of your Glory...etc.

--Proceed to Altar and get Thurible...come back down the side steps. Do NOT walk across the Altar

--Go to the center of the Altar...while standing on the floor...slight bow of head...kneel on the lowest step. (If Altar Servers present...they will be on either side of you)

--You will Incense the Body and Blood. **ONLY the Raising**

----3 Swings of the Thurible as the Body is completely raised

----3 Swings of the Thurible as the Chalice-Blood is completely raised

---Stay kneeling until Conclusion of Doxology..."Through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit...etc

---Stand...slight tilt of head...return to Censer stand. Walk around to the steps behind Ambo...DO NOT walk up steps at the front of the Altar. **Return to your seat. Finished.**

Your Duties Are Complete

*Receive Communion with the Congregation

*Procession exiting Mass with the rest of the Servers, Deacon, Priest, other Acolyte. The Acolyte that was on the Altar; will stand directly to the right of Father...you will Stand directly to the Right of the other Acolyte...proceed out together.

***Thurible and Boat stay on Altar**

*Smile...

...Serving the Lord in Many Ways...

....Makes for Happy Days!

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