

# Altar Server's Duties

## TORCH (CANDLE) BEARERS

Stand behind the Cross Bearer (one the right-side of the isle and one on the left-side of the isle)

Before the precession starts, make sure the Torches (Candles) are held at the same height.

When the precession starts the Cross Bearer turns and faces the Altar, allow the Cross Bearer to take 3 steps forward then begin procession at a slow steady pace toward the Altar.

After passing the front pew, stop, bow heads together then proceed to the left of the Altar to the Torch (Candle) stands placing the Torches (Candles) in the Torch (Candle) stands.

Walking with Prayer Hands to stand behind a kneeler.

Remain Standing for the Introductory Rites.

Sit Down for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading.

When Alleluia is sung or read, with Prayer Hands walk to get the Torches (Candles).

- **Exception: During Easter through Pentecost, the Paschal Candle is lit representing Christ Light, Torch (Candle) Bearers do not walk up to stand by the Ambo.**

1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer carries the Torch (Candle) up the steps walking to the Right-Side of the Ambo and faces the other Torch (Candle) Bearer.

2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer carries the Torch (Candle) up the steps walking to the Left-Side of the Ambo and faces the other Torch (Candle) Bearer.

After the reading of the Gospel and "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ", turn and walk down the steps, return Troches (Candles) to the Torch (Candles) stands, with Prayer Hands return to pew and sit down. Sit reverently during the Homily.

After Prayer of the Faithful, both Torch (Candle) Bearers walk up the steps and bow together toward the Altar.

1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer will proceed to the Right-Side Credence (John) Table:

- Take book stand with the Roman Missal and place on the Right-Side of the Altar.
- Take Celebrant's Chalice and place on the Left-Side of the Altar on the clear plexiglass.
- Take small Paten(s) with unconsecrated hosts (if there are any) and place on the Altar in front of the Crucifix, bow toward the Altar, stand on Right-Side with Prayer Hands.

2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer will proceed to the Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table:

- Take the two Wine Cups (filled with wine) and place on the Left-Side of the Altar on the clear plexiglass.
- Take the two Purificators and place beside the Wine Cups on the clear plexiglass, bow toward the Altar, stand on the Left-Side with Prayer Hands.

The two Torch (Candle) Bearers wait for the Celebrant and/or Deacon to walk to the Altar, when the Celebrant and/or Deacon bows toward the Altar, the Torch (Candle) Bearers bows their heads.

When the Celebrant and/or Deacon proceeds down the front steps to the foot of the Altar, the Torch (Candle) Bearers proceed down the steps to the foot of the Altar.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer on the Right-Side of the Altar proceeds down front steps to the foot of the Altar and stands next to the Celebrant and/or Deacon.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer on the Left-Side of the Altar proceeds down the front steps to the foot of the Altar and stands next to the Celebrant and/or Deacon.

When the Cross Bearer leading the procession of Gifts reaches the Celebrant and/or Deacon and Torch (Candle) Bearers, the Celebrant and/or Deacon and Torch (Candle) Bearers bow their heads.

The Celebrant and/or Deacon receives the Gifts from the selected Family.

- The Celebrant and/or Deacon receives the Large Paten (containing Celebrant's Host and unconsecrated Host-if needed) and gives to 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer.
- The Celebrant and/or Deacon receives the Wine Cruet (filled with wine) and gives to 2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer.

After the Celebrant and/or Deacon Blesses the Family presenting the Gifts, the Torch (Candle) Bearers, Celebrant, and/or Deacon turn and go back up the steps.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer carrying the Large Paten goes to the Right-Side of the Altar, give Large Paten to the Celebrant and/or Deacon, bows, goes to the Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table, pick-up the water cruet, and stands next to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Torch Bearer who is holding the wine cruet.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer carrying the wine cruet goes to the Left-Side of the Altar, stands and waits for the 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer to join them.

When the Celebrant and/or Deacon is ready for the wine cruet and water cruet, the Celebrant and/or Deacon will turn and look at the two Torch (Candle) Bearers who will proceed to the Altar.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer holding the wine cruet will stand closest to the Altar, turn cruet handle toward the Celebrant and/or Deacon, remove the cruet top, present the wine cruet to the Celebrant and/or Deacon, retrieve the wine cruet, replace the cruet top.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer holding the water cruet will stand next to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer, turn cruet handle toward the Celebrant and/or Deacon, remove the cruet top, present the water cruet to the Celebrant and/or Deacon, retrieve the water cruet, replace the cruet top.
- The Torch (Candle) Bearers will bow together, turn toward each other, go to Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table, place the wine and water cruet on the Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table.

The washing of the Celebrant's hands:

- One Torch Bearer will hold the silver pitcher and one Torch Bearer will hold the silver lavabo with the towel draped over their left arm. When the Celebrant bows at the Altar, proceed to the Celebrant, the Torch Bearer holding the silver pitcher is closest to the Altar. After the Celebrant dries his hands, bow, turn toward each other, proceed to the Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table, place silver pitcher, lavabo, and towel on the Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table.

Walking with Prayer Hands return back to pew and remain standing.

At the Sign of Peace Only the 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer goes the Altar.

- Proceed to the Center, bows, go to the Altar, take the book stand with the Roman Missal, place on the Right-Side Credence (John) Table, take the 2 small Patens with a Purificator between them to the Altar, give to Celebrant and/or Deacon, bow, return to stand behind kneeler.

Receive Communion at the foot of the Altar with other parishioners.

After communion, return to Altar.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer goes to Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table to get the water cruet. stands with Prayer Hands.
- Watch as the Celebrant or Deacon returns the Ciborium to the Tabernacle. When the Celebrant or Deacon closes the Tabernacle and kneels you will bow.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> vessel purified, 2<sup>nd</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer walk to the Altar, pick up the vessel, bow, place the vessel on the Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table, and then return to the kneeler and kneel.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Torch (Candle) Bearer:

- Holding the water cruet, turn cruet handle toward the Celebrant and/or Deacon, remove the cruet top, present the water cruet to the Celebrant or Deacon, retrieve the water cruet, replace the cruet top, bow, return water cruet to Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table.
- Standing with Prayer Hands, when the Celebrant or Deacon finishes purifying the Celebrant Chalice, walk to the Celebrant or Deacon, take the Celebrant Chalice, bow, place the Celebrant Chalice on the Left-Side Credence (Mary) Table, and then return to the kneeler and kneel.

After the Celebrant gives the Final Blessing and Dismissal, and we begin the Hail Holy Queen Prayer, get the Torches (Candles), walk and stand in front of the kneeler facing the Altar.

After all Prayers are completed, the Celebrant proceeds to the Altar, you will proceed to the center aisle, face the Altar, stand in front the Cross Bearer (one the right-side of the isle and one on the left-side of the isle), make sure the Torches (Candles) are held at the same height.

When the Celebrant walks down the steps, turns, and bows toward the Altar, you will bow, turn, and at a slow steady pace, proceed out of the sanctuary.

\*\*\*\*There will be times when things don't happen as we train for. The important thing to remember is **do not panic!** Mass will not be "ruined" or "invalid" because you forget to bow or place the priest's chalice in the wrong place. Be aware that priests (and deacons) may also make mistakes or a visiting priest may not follow what our parish priests do. **Be attentive and flexible.** \*\*\*\*