

Altar Server Duties – TORCH (CANDLE) BEARERS

REVISED 11/17/25

Stand behind the Cross Bearer, one Torch Bearer on the right side of the aisle and the other on the left side of the aisle.

Before the procession starts, make sure the Torches (Candles) are held at the same height. When the procession starts, the Cross Bearer turns and faces the Altar. Allow the Cross Bearer to take 3 steps forward, then follow 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 Stand and place the Torches in the Torch Stand.

Walk with Prayer Hands to stand behind one of the two kneelers closest to the wall and remain standing for the Introductory Rites.

Sit down for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, and Second Reading, keeping hands in “resting position” in your lap.

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

- **When no Deacon is present:** Torch Bearer #1 walks up the steps and walks to the Altar side of the Ambo and faces Torch Bearer #2. Torch Bearer #2 carries the Torch up the steps and stands on the choir side of the Ambo. **NEW PROCEDURE:** After the reading of the Gospel and “Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ”, remain in place while the Priest places the Lectionary on the ledge on the front of the Ambo. Once the book is placed on the ledge, turn, walk down steps, gently place Torches in the Torch Stand, return to the pews with Prayer Hands and sit down. Sit reverently during the Homily.
- **NEW PROCEDURE WHEN DEACON IS PRESENT:** Torch Bearer #1 walks to the John side of the Altar, facing the congregation and Torch Bearer #2 walks to the Mary side of the Altar, facing the congregation. When the Deacon picks up The Book of the Gospels from the Altar, Torch Bearer #1 processes around the side, then the front of the Altar, around the back side of the Ambo and stands on the side of the Ambo closest to the pews. The Deacon follows Torch Bearer #1, followed by Torch Bearer #2. After the reading of the Gospel and “Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ”, remain in place while the Deacon places The Book of the Gospels on the ledge on the front of the Ambo. Once the book is placed on the ledge, turn, walk down the steps, gently place the Torch in the Torch Stand, return to your pew with Prayer Hands and sit down. Sit reverently during the Homily.
- Exception: During Easter through Pentecost, the Paschal Candle is lit representing Christ Light; Torch Bearers do not walk up to stand by the Ambo.

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

Torch Bearer #1 proceeds to the John Credence Table:

- Take book stand with the Roman Missal and place on the John Side of the Altar.
- Take Celebrant’s Chalice and place on the Mary 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, and stand on John Side with Prayer Hands.

Torch Bearer #2 proceeds to the Mary Credence Table:

- Take two Wine Cups (filled with wine) and place on the Mary Side of the Altar on the clear plexiglass. (If there are a total of four Wine Cups, take the other two and place on the Mary side of the Altar on the clear plexiglass.)
- Take the two (or four) Purificators and place beside the Wine Cups on the clear plexiglass, bow toward the Altar, and stand on the Mary Side with Prayer Hands.

The two Torch Bearers wait for the Celebrant/Deacon to walk to the Altar. If the Celebrant/Deacon bows toward the Altar, the Torch Bearers bow their heads. When the Celebrant/Deacon proceeds down the front steps to the foot of the Altar, the Torch Bearers proceed down the steps to the foot of the Altar; Torch Bearer #1 on the John Side of the Altar proceeds down front steps on the John side to the foot of the Altar and stands next to the Celebrant/Deacon while Torch Bearer #2 on the Mary Side of the Altar proceeds down the front steps on the Mary side to the foot of the Altar and stands next to the Celebrant/Deacon.

When the Cross Bearer leading the procession of Gifts reaches the Celebrant/Deacon and Torch Bearers, the Celebrant/Deacon and Torch Bearers bow their heads. The Celebrant/Deacon receives the Gifts from the selected Family. The Celebrant/Deacon receives the Large Paten (containing Celebrant's Host and unconsecrated Host-if needed) and gives it to Torch Bearer #1. The Celebrant/Deacon receives the Wine Cruet (filled with wine) and gives to Torch Bearer #2. After the Celebrant/Deacon blesses the family presenting the Gifts, the Torch Bearers and Celebrant/Deacon turn and go back up the steps.

Torch Bearer #1 carries the Large Paten up on the John Side of the Altar, gives Large Paten to the Celebrant/Deacon at the Altar, bows, goes to the Mary Credence Table, picks up the water cruet ensuring that the cruet handle is facing outwards, and stands next to Torch Bearer #2 who is holding the wine cruet. The wine cruet stands closest to the Altar.

Torch Bearer #2 carries the wine cruet up on the Mary Side of the Altar, stands off to the side of the Celebrant/Deacon ensuring that the cruet handle is facing outwards and waits for Torch Bearer #1 to bring the water cruet. The wine cruet stands closest to the Altar.

When the Celebrant/Deacon is ready for the wine cruet and water cruet, Torch Bearer #2 presents the wine cruet to the Celebrant/Deacon and waits with hand over heart until Celebrant/Deacon returns the wine cruet into Torch Bearer #2's hand. Torch Bearer #1 presents the water cruet to the Celebrant/Deacon and waits with hand over heart until Celebrant/Deacon returns the water cruet into Torch Bearer #1's hand. Torch Bearers bow together, turn toward each other, go to Mary Credence Table, and place the wine and water cruets on the Mary Credence Table.

The washing of the Celebrant's hands: One Torch Bearer holds the silver pitcher and one Torch Bearer holds the silver lavabo with the towel draped over their left arm. Proceed to the Celebrant with the Torch Bearer holding the silver pitcher closest to the Altar. After the Celebrant dries his hands, bow, turn toward each other, proceed to the Mary Credence Table, place silver pitcher, lavabo, and towel on the Mary Credence Table. Walk with Prayer Hands, return to pew, and remain standing.

At the Sign of Peace: Only Torch Bearer #1 goes to the Altar. Proceed to the center, bow, go to the Altar, take the book stand with the Roman Missal and place it on the John Credence Table. Take the 2 small Patens with a Purificator between them to the Altar, give to Celebrant/Deacon, bow, return to stand

behind kneeler. As soon as a Minister of Communion is in place, immediately form a line to receive Communion at the foot of the Altar with other parishioners.

When the Celebrant returns to the Altar after distributing Communion, Torch Bearers and Cross Bearer return to the Altar. Torch Bearer #1 goes to the Mary Table, picks up the water cruet with the handle facing outward and stands beside the Ambo with the Cross Bearer and Torch Bearer #2. Torch Bearer #1 will stand closest to the Altar, the Cross Bearer will stand to the left of Torch Bearer #1 and Torch Bearer #2 will stand to the left of the Cross Bearer. As the Celebrant/Deacon returns the Ciborium to the Tabernacle, turn facing the Tabernacle and when the Celebrant/Deacon closes the Tabernacle and genuflects, servers bow. Torch Bearer #1 immediately presents the water cruet to the Celebrant/Deacon at the Altar, ensuring that the cruet handle is facing outward. When Celebrant/Deacon takes the water cruet, place hand over heart. When Celebrant/Deacon returns the water cruet to Torch Bearer #1, bring it back to Mary Credence Table, then walks with Prayer Hands to the left of Torch Bearer #2. Cross Bearer, standing with Prayer Hands, removes the 1st vessel purified, brings it to Mary Credence Table and then returns to the kneeler with Prayer Hands and kneels. Torch Bearer #2, standing with Prayer Hands, removes 2nd vessel purified, bows, places the vessel on Mary Credence Table, and then returns to the kneeler with Prayer Hands and kneels. Torch Bearer #1, standing with Prayer Hands, removes when the Celebrant's Chalice when Celebrant/Deacon finishes purification, takes the Celebrant's Chalice, bows, places the Celebrant's Chalice on the Mary Credence Table, and then returns to the kneeler with Prayer Hands and kneels.

After the Celebrant gives the Final Blessing and Dismissal, and we begin the Saint Michael Prayer, Torch Bearers step out into the aisle to allow the Cross Bearer to lead the recessional line with the Cross. After the Cross Bearer reaches the Cross, the Torch Bearers retrieve Torches, walk and stand in front of the Lector Pew. After the "Amen" at the end of the Saint Michael Prayer, proceed to the center aisle, face the Altar, stand in front the Cross Bearer, one Torch Bearer on the right side of the aisle and the other Torch Bearer on the left side of the aisle, ensuring that the Torches are held at the same height.

When the Celebrant walks down the steps, turns, and bows toward the Altar, Torch Bearers bow their heads, 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. ****P