

Diocesan Norms for Celebration of Mass

As of Advent 2014 the liturgical practices specified herein, consonant with The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, will be normative for the following aspects of the celebration of Mass throughout the Diocese of Baker:

1. the order and manner of liturgical processions
2. chalices for the Communion of the faithful filled before Mass
3. ringing of bells at the Consecration only
4. Communion under both species at all Masses, Sunday and daily
5. Communion from Hosts consecrated at the same Mass, not from Hosts in the Tabernacle
6. announcements made *after* the closing prayer, not before
7. no additional prayers after the final blessing and dismissal of the people.

The Order and Manner of Liturgical Processions

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Order of Procession

- (thurifer)
- cross bearer
- candle bearers (close behind)
- acolyte(s)
- lector(s) (side by side if two)
- Gospel Book bearer (deacon if present)
- (deacons—side by side if more than one)
- (priest concelebrants—side by side if more than one)
- principal celebrant (priest or bishop) (with deacon a half-step ahead to the right)
- (miter- and crozier-bearers).

Manner of procession

- If incense is used, the celebrant puts incense in the thurible in the vestibule, before the procession commences, and does not add more when he reaches the altar. Rather, after kissing the altar, he immediately takes the thurible from the deacon, who has received it from the thurifer, and begins to incense the altar. If no deacon is present, the thurifer hands the thurible directly to the celebrant.
- The Lectionary is never carried in procession—only the Gospel Book.
- Each person in the procession proceeds directly to his place in pew or sanctuary without stopping to form a line before the altar.

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- The *thurifer* goes immediately behind the altar to the left and waits for the celebrant. As soon as the celebrant kisses the altar, the thurifer steps forward and hands him the thurible (or he gives it to the deacon if one is present).
- The *cross bearer* takes the cross right to its stand and sets it in place facing the altar, not facing the people (unless there is no other crucifix in the sanctuary).
- *Candle bearers* take their candles right to the credence table and set them down. The *bearer of the Gospel Book* circles rightward to the rear of the altar, sets the Book on the altar and then goes immediately to the front center pew. (If the bearer of the Gospel Book is a deacon, after setting it on the altar, he steps back slightly to his right to await the celebrant, kisses the altar with him, takes the thurible from the thurifer, and hands it to the celebrant.)
- *Acolytes* walking side by side genuflect together to the tabernacle or, if the tabernacle is in a separate chapel, make a profound bow to the altar and proceed directly to their places in the sanctuary. Unaccompanied acolytes do the same.
- *Lectors* walking side by side make a similar reverence when they reach the front pews and then step directly into the places reserved for them in the front center pews (preferably one on each side). Unaccompanied lectors do the same. Note: lectors should stop *right by* their pews, not ahead of them; they should never turn back to enter their pews lest they run into people behind them in the procession.
- *Deacons and concelebrants* likewise genuflect in pairs (or make a profound bow if the Tabernacle is elsewhere). They then proceed in pairs to kiss the altar and go to their places in the sanctuary.
- The *principal celebrant* (bishop or priest) genuflects or bows alone (unless a deacon accompanies him) and is the last to enter the sanctuary (the deacon preceding him). He kisses the altar and, when incense is used, takes the thurible from the deacon or thurifer without putting incense in it and incenses the altar. He then goes to his chair.

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EXIT PROCESSION

Order of Procession

(*Not* carried out: thurible, Gospel Book)

- cross bearer
- candle bearers
- acolyte(s)
- lectors (side by side)
- (deacons—side by side)
- (priest concelebrants—side by side)
- principal celebrant with deacon a half step ahead to his right
- (miter and crozier bearers)

Manner of Procession

- After the final blessing, as soon as the people respond, “Thanks be to God,” the cross bearer and candle bearers *immediately* get the cross and candles and proceed down from the sanctuary fifteen or twenty feet into the main aisle, where they stop and turn around facing the altar, the cross bearer in the center and slightly behind the candle bearers.
- The acolytes follow and stand facing the altar in front of the candle bearers.
- The lectors stand in the aisle facing the altar in front of the acolytes.
- As the servers head down into the aisle, the celebrant and deacon kiss the altar and descend to the floor in front of the altar at the head of the main aisle.
- All genuflect together (except cross bearer and candle bearers), turn around together, and walk deliberately (not too fast, not too slow) out of the church.

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GOSPEL PROCESSION

- After the Second Reading, when the lector returns to the pew and sits down, thurifer comes and kneels before celebrant, hands incense to celebrant (or deacon if one is present), and opens up thurible.
- When celebrant has put incense in thurible, thurifer closes it, takes incense back from celebrant (or deacon), stands up and goes to specified position at head of procession.
- Candle bearers stand behind him side by side.
- Deacon stands (sign for the singing of the Alleluia to begin), kneels for the celebrant's blessing, stands, and goes to the altar. When he takes the Gospel Book in hand and turns, the thurifer begins to move toward the pulpit, with the candle bearers right behind him.
- The deacon (or priest) says "The Lord be with you" and "A reading from the holy Gospel according to . . ." He takes the thurible from the thurifer and incenses the Book with three double swings. He then proceeds to read the Gospel.
- When the reading is finished, the deacon brings the Book to the priest to be kissed (or, if previously agreed, kisses it himself).
- The thurifer and candle bearers go back to their places immediately and do not accompany the deacon if he brings the Book to the priest to kiss.