

CELEBRATION of MASS: Norms for Priests, Deacons, Acolytes

BASIC PRINCIPLES

“Attention follows motion, and not sound.”

“Age quod agis—Do what you’re doing.”

“One bread, one cup.”

“The breaking of the bread.”

Each minister does the work of his own ministry, not that of another’s.

PROCESSIONS

Entrance

Order of procession:

(thurifer)
Cross bearer
Candle bearers
Lectors (side by side)
Gospel Book (carried by Deacon)
Priest(s) / Deacon (half-step back)
(Bishop / Deacon)
(Mitre- and Crozier-bearers)

Conclusion of procession:

- Each person proceeds directly to his place in the sanctuary without stopping to form a line before the altar.
- Genuflection to tabernacle (or profound bow to altar) is made individually, not as a group in a line.
- The priest is the last to enter the sanctuary.

Gospel

Lector returns to pew, takes seat. Brief silence.

Candle bearers take candles from credence table.

(Thurifer brings thurible to priest, who puts incense in it. Thurifer withdraws to stand before candle bearers in line of procession.)

(Deacon stands, kneels before priest for blessing, then goes to take Gospel Book.)

Priest stands. Alleluia begins.

Offertory

When priest sits down, ushers immediately begin to take up collection.

Preparation of the Altar

- Book bearer places Missal near center of altar.
- Server places Chalice on right side of altar (not in the middle).
- Deacon / Acolyte / Priest comes to altar,
 - unfolds and lays down corporal
 - opens Missal and puts it in place
 - leaves Chalice on right side of altar (not on corporal)

Offertory Procession

- Every Mass—both Sunday and daily.
- Gift bearers come forward unescorted when priest reaches center in front of altar. Altar servers do *not* leave sanctuary with processional cross to lead procession.
- Order of presentation of gifts (all handed to priest):
 - collection: to place near altar
 - wine: to credence table
 - hosts: taken to altar by priest
- Upon reception of gifts: reciprocal head bows
- When Priest returns to altar after receiving gifts and sets ciborium down on corporal, servers *immediately* bring him the small chalices filled with wine, which he places at the farthest edges of the corporal.
- Priest sets bread and wine on altar. Acolytes do not.
- Priest or deacon, not acolyte, pours wine and water into chalice.
- If hymn ends by this point (preferable), priest elevates paten, says in full voice “Blessed are You. . . .” Then follows with the wine.

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Exit

Any additional prayer (not taken from the Missal) is said after the announcements and before the blessing.

Priest (Deacon): "Go in peace."

People: "Thanks be to God."

Closing hymn (or instrumental music) begins at once.

Procession commences without stopping for any additional prayers.

- Cross bearer *immediately* takes processional cross from stand and descends to middle of center aisle, ten to fifteen feet back from bottom step of sanctuary, facing altar.
- Servers *immediately* take processional candles from table and follow cross bearer to center aisle, standing just before him facing altar.
- Lectors emerge from center pews and stand before candle bearers facing altar.
- As servers exit sanctuary, priest and deacon reverence altar, descend to center aisle and genuflect.
- When priest and deacon begin to turn around, cross bearer, candle bearers, and lectors turn together and process to doors of church.

BELLS

Three gentle rings at Consecration only:

- Presentation of Host
- Presentation of Chalice.

Bells are *not* rung at the Epiclesis or when the priest consumes the Precious Blood.

OTHER DETAILS

- Use candleholders that are designed to be carried, not detachable candleholders from altar.
- Processional cross is placed facing altar, not people.

- Preferable: no freestanding stationary candles by pulpit.
- Preferable: two lectors, one cantor.
- Lectors, seated in front center pews on both sides of aisle, approach / return from pulpit from center aisle with profound bow.
- Alleluia should not be sung from pulpit
- Preferable: chalice veil
- Preferable: wider corporal
- Offertory gifts: bread, wine, collection. Water is never brought up at Offertory.
- Hosts for Consecration in one large (preferably bowl-shaped) ciborium.
- Smaller, empty ciboria are brought to altar by servers immediately after the greeting of peace. Priest then distributes hosts from large ciborium into smaller ciboria during "Lamb of God"
- Priest breaks Host: begin "Lamb of God"
- Eucharistic ministers come to sanctuary when priest sets Chalice down after consuming Precious Blood.
- Ministers of Precious Blood take (or are handed) purificators immediately upon entering sanctuary.
- Deacon always administers Chalice.
- At end of Communion, Eucharistic Ministers set ciboria or chalices on altar and return immediately to their pews.
- No "rite" of repose of Sacrament after communion. Servers, acolytes, Eucharistic ministers do not turn to / focus on the placing of the consecrated hosts in the Tabernacle. Rather, they attend to the cleansing of the vessels at the altar or at the credence table.