

CROSS BEARER GUIDELINES

General Information

- Arrive at least 15 minutes before **Mass** begins
- If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled, please find a replacement
- Always pay attention and participate fully in the Mass
- Remember **servers** are there to assist the presider so that Mass runs smoothly
- Dress appropriately for Mass. Please do not wear tennis shoes, shorts, etc. - remember that you are serving at the banquet of our Lord
- Be flexible and focused

Before Mass

- Sign in at the vesting **sacristy**
- Vest in the work sacristy - choose a white **alb** that fits appropriately (it should cover you to the ankles); Check the chart for the correct color **cincture**
- Make sure altar candles are lit; Survey the **credence table**, making sure everything is there
- Spend a few minutes in silent prayer preparing for Mass in the chapel
- Wait quietly in the vesting sacristy for the **procession** to begin

Mass - Always participate fully in the Mass

Introductory Rite

Entrance Procession

- **Cross bearer** leads procession; walk slowly and reverently
- Once you get to the altar simply turn and proceed to the work sacristy and place the cross in the holder and return to the pew, sitting on the end of the pew next to the bells.

Penitential Rite

Gloria

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Homily

Profession of Faith

General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts

- Go to the credence table and bring the priest's **chalice, purificator, pall** and **corporal** to altar; the cross bearer's assistant will carry the **Sacramentary**
- Place the corporal on center of the altar and unfold it; place the Sacramentary according to the presider's wishes, the pall on the right side of the corporal, and the chalice and the

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purificator on the right side of the corporal; reverence the altar together with the cross bearer's assistant

- Go to the work sacristy and get the cross and proceed down the side aisle slowly to the entrance of church to meet the people bringing up the gifts
- When the presider is ready, lead procession down the center aisle slowly. When you reach Father, turn and proceed to work sacristy and place cross in stand; return to pew

Eucharistic Prayer

- Ring the bells at the elevation of the Sacred Body and Precious Blood during the Institution Narrative. Do not be timid about ringing the bells, please give a full and long ring.
- At sign of peace, depending on the presider, you may have to go up to altar and remove Sacramentary; reverence the altar and place Sacramentary on the credence table; return to pew

Holy Communion

- Receive Holy Communion
- If Sacramentary is on the altar (depending on the presider), remove it to credence table
- Return to the pew for silent prayer

Prayer after Communion

- If there are ministers taking Communion to the homebound, go and receive the empty tray and place it in the work sacristy
- When Father says "Let us pray", get the cross and wait at doorway of the work sacristy

Concluding Rite

Final Blessing

Closing Procession

- When Father reverences the altar, immediately walk to the center aisle in line-up position
- Father will **genuflect**, you bow head slightly, and when Father turns and faces congregation, you turn and reverently lead procession down the center aisle
- Return the cross to the holder in the vesting sacristy
- Hang alb up neatly in closet and return cincture to proper place