

Thurifer Responsibilities

The Thurifer should arrive about 40 minutes prior to the service.

If the Thurible has not been emptied, the Thurifer should dispose of the ashes and remaining incense behind the statue of the Virgin Mary in the floral garden.

The briquettes, incense and aluminum foil are in the beige cabinet in the sacristy.

The Thurifer should put a new half sheet of aluminum foil into the Thurible. Then the Thurifer should take a whole briquette and break it into two or three parts and put it into the Thurible. An additional half should be added for services where the beginning of the service is lengthy, such as the Easter Vigil, Christmas Eve, or when the Bishop is visiting.

In addition, the Thurifer should break a second briquette and place it on top of the fire extinguisher cabinet just to the left by the Sanctuary rear doors so the Thurifer can add briquette material during long services.

The Thurifer also needs to confirm there is adequate incense in the boat. If not Thurifer should fill the Thurible. The boat will be given to the Boat Bearer if a boat bearer is used. It is also suggested the Thurifer move this Thurible Stand from its normal position to a location by the fire extinguisher cabinet. This will put the idling Thurible out of sight of the choir and other individuals who may not want be in the smoke.

The Thurifer should verify that the two gold pillows have been put on the first step just to the right of the altar in front of the Credence Table.

The Thurifer should light the Thurible in the Sacristy about 25 to 30 minutes before the service. The matches and lighter are in the drawer so marked. Once the briquettes are lit, the Thurifer should take the Thurible and the boat out the rear Sanctuary door so that it will create the least amount of disturbance to those in the Church. It is suggested

the Thurifer also swing the Thurible after Thurifer is outside to ensure that the briquettes are holding the light.

The above should take approximately 15 minutes and provide enough time for the Thurifer to join the Altar party for the prayers in the Life Center. At this time the Thurifer will give the boat to the boat bearer if one is being used. The boat bearer should always be to the left of the Thurifer.

Once the prayers are said, the Altar party goes over to the church. The Thurifer stands away from people and choir entering the church. The Thurifer normally stands with the boat bearer at the juncture between the drive and the center walkway and waits for the celebrant. The celebrant will come over to the Thurifer about three to five minutes before the start of the service. The Thurifer will raise the Thurible to approximately waist high and raise the cover. The boat bearer will open the boat. The Thurifer will say "incense father". The priest will take the small spoon and shovel some incense into the briquettes (typically three scoops). When this is done the Thurifer will say "Bless the incense father".

The celebrant will enter the church and will signal the Thurifer to enter the church approximately 1 minute before the service to starts.

The Thurifer and the boat bearer will enter the nave and take a position approximately 2 pews in front of the crucifer. When the singing starts the Thurifer will start walking slowly down the aisle and swinging the Thurible. The Thurible is to be on the Thurifer's right side.

During various services there will be processions which take the Thurifer to the baptismal font or St. Joseph's altar or to a station of the cross. This will be all determined during the rehearsal for the surplus.

If there is not a special procession, the Thurifer and boat bearer will proceed to the front of the altar turn to the left and proceed to a location in front of the acolyte kneeler.

Once the processional hymn and opening remarks are made by the celebrant, the altar will be blessed. The Thurifer and boat person will walk up to the altar. The Thurifer will raise the Thurible to approximately waist high and raise the cover. The boat bearer will open the boat. The Thurifer will say "incense father". The priest will take the small spoon and shovel some incense unto the briquettes. When this is done the Thurifer will say "Bless the incense father".

The Thurifer will then hand a Thurible to the celebrant and then step back to the credence table with the boat bearer. The celebrant and other priests and deacons will then walk around the altar and provide the blessing of the altar.

Once the blessing of the altar is completed the Thurifer will step up to the Altar and take the Thurible from the Celebrant and step back allowing the priests and Deacons to return to their seats. The Thurifer and boat bearer will return the Thurible and boat to the Thurible Stand.

When the Gospel Hymn starts the Thurifer and boat bearer will retrieve the Thurible and boat. Once the singing of the gospel hymn has started, the Thurifer and boat bearer will step in front of the Celebrant. The Thurifer will raise the Thurible to approximately waist high and raise the cover. The boat bearer will open the boat. The Thurifer will say "incense father". The priest will take the small spoon and shovel some incense unto the briquettes. When this is done the Thurifer will say "Bless the incense father".

The Thurifer and boat bearer will step back to the Acolyte kneeler and wait for the Lay Leader's signal to proceed. The Thurifer and boat bearer will then step to the front of the altar and then walk to the center aisle and stand at the first pew. The Thurifer and boat bearer will then turn around and face the altar. At this time the crucifer and torch bearers will follow and stand at the first step facing the altar. The priest or deacon who will read the Gospel will take the gospel from the Altar. The priest or deacon will turn either to the right or left. The Thurifer and boat bearer should turn in the same direction. The Thurifer and boat

bearer will turn around and walk down the aisle and position themselves at approximately the third or fourth pew on the gospel side of the congregation. The torch bearers will proceed just past the Thurifer and turn toward the center of the aisle. The crucifer will turn around and stand at the electrical outlet. The lay leader or acolyte will stand in between the torch bearers facing the altar and will receive the gospel from the priest or deacon reading the Gospel.

The priest or deacon will say the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to. The Thurifer will then give a Thurible to the priest or deacon who will cense the gospel. The priest or deacon will give the Thurible back to the Thurifer.

The gospel will be read. The priest or deacon will step to the lectern side of the aisle allowing room for the Thurifer and boat bearer to proceed up the aisle toward the altar. Thurifer and boat bearer will go to the gospel side of the altar and return the Thurible and boat to the Thurible station.

When the Holy Eucharistic begins, the deacon or one of the priests will begin setting up the altar. The Thurifer and boat bearer will retrieve the Thurible and boat and stand near Gospel side Credence table. When the Celebrant comes up to the altar, and turns toward the Thurifer, the Thurifer and boat bearer will step forward to the celebrant. The Thurifer will raise the Thurible to approximately waist level and raise the cover. The boat bearer will open the boat. The Thurifer will say "incense father". The priest will take the small spoon and shovel some incense unto the briquettes. When this is done the Thurifer will say "Bless the incense father".

The Thurifer and boat bearer will then step back to a location slightly behind the credence table. The celebrant will bless the host and wine with the incense.

At this time either the deacon in charge or the Thurifer will take from the Celebrant the Thurible and then proceed around to the front of the altar to bless priests by doing a double swing (to the center, to the Thurifer's

left and then to swing to the Thurifer's right). The Thurifer will then stand in front of the credence table on the lectern side of the altar.

The Thurifer and boat bearer will wait there until the music for the return of the plates begins. The Thurifer will step out into the center of the railings and then bow to the congregation and swing the Thurible to the area the Thurifer is facing (once to the center, once to the Thurifer's left, and once to the Thurifer's right).

Thurifer and boat bearer will then proceed to the gold pillows and then kneel on the pillows throughout the blessing of the host and wine.

(If there is a deacon in the altar party, the deacon will perform this function and the Thurifer and boat bearer will wait just behind the credence table on the gospel side of the altar).

When the Celebrant raises the host and says this is my body which is given for you do this for the remembrance of me, the Thurifer is to swing the Thurible nine times. The celebrant will provide the Thurifer with sufficient time to accomplish this task.

When the Celebrant raises the chalice and says drink this all of you this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you do it, do this for the remembrance of me, the Thurifer is to swing the Thurible nine times. The celebrant will provide the Thurifer with sufficient time to accomplish this task.

Once the Agnus Dei begins, the Thurifer and boat person will stand pick up the gold pillows and proceed to the Thurible station where the Thurifer and boat person will place the Thurible and boat in the respective positions and to place the pillows under the fire extinguisher cabinet. The Thurifer and boat person will proceed to their respective seats.

Side Comment

After the Gospel procession and after the Holy Communion, the Thurifer should check the briquettes and if needed will put one or two half briquettes in the Thurible. If in the judgment of the Thurifer additional incense should be put in the Thurible, the Thurifer should do so.

The recessional

When the recessional hymn begins the Thurifer and boat bearer are to retrieve the Thurible and boat. The Thurifer and the boat bearer should stand adjacent to the Acolyte kneeling station. When the lay leader signals for the Thurifer and boat bearer to proceed, the Thurifer and boat bearer will proceed on the gospel side of the altar and to proceed to a position at the first pew where they will wait for the choir to get to the center aisle. The Thurifer and boat bearer will then proceed down the aisle to the outside of the church.

The Thurifer and the boat person will then proceed along the gospel side of the nave and return the Thurible and boat to the Thurible station. The Thurifer will then move the station back to the normal Thurible location. The Thurible will hang in its position until the briquettes have completely burned themselves out. The Thurifer does not have to do anything else with the Thurible at this time. Once the briquettes and remaining incense have cooled, the Thurifer at the next service or a few days later, should dispose of the ashes and remaining incense behind the statue of the Virgin Mary in the garden.

Depending on the service, there may be a special or extended recessional like that done for St. Mary's day. This will be described at the rehearsal for the service.

The pillows will be returned to the closet at the back of the sacristy.

THE END