

Crucifer, Server, and Acolyte Customary

St. Monica's Episcopal Church, Naples, FL 2019

Updated 11/23/19

Your Own Preparation for Worship

- Please arrive at the church, no later than 30 minutes before the service begins
- Vest in alb and cincture, and be in place in the sanctuary ready to serve no later than 20 minutes before service time.
- Light the candles and obtain the cross (and candles if acolytes present) 10 minutes before service, please join the worship team outside near the side doors of the church or in the back of the church, for the pre-service prayer.

Lighting Candles

- NOTE: No Later than 10 minutes before the service light the altar candles.
 - Reverence the altar first.
 - Reverently light each candle - Lighting (Right to left)
 - Acquire the cross (candles and Gospel Book if more than one acolyte).
 - Reverence the altar before leaving the chancel.
- Return to the back of the church.

Lineup

- STANDARD: Crucifer/Server and two Acolytes (if available)
- If Crucifer and three Acolytes (fourth carries the Gospel Book behind cross)
- If only two Acolytes, one serves as Crucifer and the other carries the Gospel Book.

Procession

- Lineup behind Baptismal Font as Opening Hymn begins.
- At FIRST VERSE of the Opening Hymn, begin the procession. Please walk at a moderate pace (do not walk too slow or too fast). Walk as if you are taking a leisurely stroll. **Please walk in a straight line directly from the baptismal font to the center of the altar.**
- Crucifer and Acolytes process to altar (do not reverence), and return cross and candles to holders.
- Acolytes and Crucifer take their seats.

Gospel Procession

When the priest begins to move:

- Crucifer and Acolytes move to the front of the altar (do not go behind the altar and bow).
- Retrieve the Gospel book (Crucifer) and candles (Acolytes) and then, move down to the floor, facing the congregation and awaits priest.
- Priest moves to altar, reverences, turns, and follows the Gospel procession to the center of the middle aisle, right in front of the baptismal font.
- After the Gospel is read, the priest steps to one side, and the Crucifer and Acolytes proceed toward altar, and the priest follows.
- Crucifer and Acolytes return Gospel Book and candles to their holders, and return to their seats and remain standing (until congregation sits).

Assisting at the Altar

After the priest walks behind the altar, after the offertory sentence, "Walk in love"

- Crucifer removes the stop from the flagon of wine and water; hands wine cruet to priest.
- After priest fills chalice, receive the empty flagon and return to credence table.

- Place Lavabo bowl in left hand, place lavabo towel over that same wrist, hand the water cruet to the priest with handle facing him/her.
- Priest will hand the cruet back to the crucifer.
- Crucifer washes priests hands, bows to him/her, returns lavabo towel/bowl and water to the credence table.
- Crucifer then moves to one side of the credence table and stands in front of their seat facing the congregation.

After the gifts (wine, bread, offering) are given to the priest by the ushers, and positioned on the altar.

- Priest will fill the paten with wafers and pass the empty ciborium and stopper for wine cruet to Crucifer.
- Crucifer will place both on the credence table.
- Crucifer then stands in front of their seat facing the congregation.

At the fraction "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us..."

- Crucifer places additional chalice on the right corner of the altar.
- Priest will fill that chalice and hand the cruet to the crucifer.
- Place the empty cruet on the credence table.
- During distribution of communion and If requested, take additional ciborium of wafers and stand behind the priest and hand to him/her when requested (**pass to the right of the altar ... do not walk behind the altar please**).

After the priest returns to the altar (after communion)

- Remove the offering plates and place in the slot under the lectern.

After the blessing

- Priest stands in front of her/his seat.
- Crucifer and Acolytes retrieve cross and candles and as the congregation begins singing the first verse, move to floor level in front of the altar and do not stop.
- The choir will move into position and begin the procession, do not wait to begin processing to the back of the sanctuary.

Extinguishing the Candles (After the dismissal)

- Return the cross to its stand and extinguish the candles only after the dismissal (extinguish left to right).

RECORDING NOTICE: At St. Monica's, in an effort to reach out to others and to provide another evangelism tool, we are recording, and may place on our website, the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship and other special services such as: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc. Liturgy participants are consenting to the capture of their voice and image and the broadcast of their participation in worship services through livestreaming and video.