

St Joan of Arc Thurifer Manual



October 2014

Thurifer Duties at Mass

Prior to Mass:

1. Light coals ~10-12 minutes before Mass.

- a. Charcoal, incense, sterno can, wooden block and tongs are located on the lower shelf of the sacristy closet. Lighter is in drawer closest to closet. Normally one and 1/2 coals are used initially and added as needed throughout the mass. Place the Thurible stand outside the day chapel door. If raining, place Thurible stand inside the door and out of the way of traffic.
- b. The wooden block with metal cover is placed on the sacristy counter with the new Thurible insert cone on top. This will protect the counter from the heat of the Thurible. Place the Thurible insert cone on the wooden block on the counter. Light the Sterno can with the long lighter.
- c. Break one charcoal in half and leave on wooden block. Use the tongs to light one of the charcoal halves from the sterno fire. The coals have a chemical reaction when lit. Keep the coal over the sterno flame until the sparks are done and make sure you heat both sides of coal. After the coals are lit place them in the insert cone. Use the same lighting procedure for the whole charcoal piece.
- d. After the coals (1 & 1/2) have been lit and placed into the Thurible cone place the top back on the Sterno can. This will extinguish the fire.
- e. Use the small can opener to lift and place the cone insert inside the Thurible. (Thurible is outside in stand at this point). Leave the top of the Thurible pulled up on the stand and wrap chain around top to help with air flow so the coals burn quicker.
- f. Use care in handling the Thurible and keep it away from other people. It is hot and occasionally the coal will let off sparks.

2. **Ensure there is sufficient incense in both boats.** Normally we fill the boats before each Mass.

Once these steps are done proceed to lower sacristy and vest with alb/cincture.

During Mass:

Part One - Procession:

1. Before the procession begins (during welcomer's brief) place 2-3 spoonfuls of incense on top of the coals and walk with the Thurible to the entrance to the worship space (**Station 1**).
 2. Thurifer leads procession. When processing, swing the Thurible with right hand. Left hand may be placed at your left side or over your chest.
 3. Break from procession (**servers & lectors/readers will continue**) and stand next to Altar candle in front of choir - **Station 2**.
 4. Step forward (to edge of carpet) as Presider reverences Altar.
 5. Present Thurible to Presider or Deacon if present per the following.
 - A. If it is Fr. Mike, with no Deacon present, hand the Thurible to him and step back to candle stand. The MC will lead Fr. Mike. He will incense Ambo side of the Altar. Then counterclockwise around to the baptismal font side of the Altar. Fr. Mike will stop (facing the large Crucifix) and bow and incense the Altar and bow again. Then Fr. Mike will be led back to the original spot on the Ambo side of the Altar. Retrieve Thurible.
- Note: If incense is added at this point, use these instructions. Not done with Fr. Mike**
- B. If a Deacon or sighted Priest is present you may need to process in with the incense boat. Check before Mass. Hold up the Thurible and use chain to raise Thurible top. The Presider/Deacon will take the boat and add incense. He will then hand the boat back and take the Thurible and incense the Altar. Do not follow Deacon or sighted Priest.
6. Retrieve Thurible from Presider and return it (and incense boat, if applicable) to sacristy by proceeding up the Tabernacle aisle.
 7. Place the Thurible outside of the day chapel door on the Thurible stand. This will help limit the amount of smoke entering the church.

The Thurifer will need to refresh the coals in the Thurible throughout the Mass until all incensing is complete. Sterno use is optional. Place pieces into Thurible. This will keep the coals from going completely out and will insure we have hot coals when needed.

Part Two – Gospel Procession: *(If incense is to be added, use procedures above)*

1. During the 2nd reading, retrieve the Thurible and move to rear credence table (**Station 3**) near back of worship space. Check hymnal for length of 2nd reading
2. Move forward when the candle bearers have moved to their candle stands.
3. Move forward of the Deacon to lead the Gospel procession.
4. Hand the Thurible to the Presider/Deacon after the book is “signed”.
5. Retrieve Thurible from Presider/Deacon and back up slowly to **Station 3**. **(Do not swing Thurible)**
6. After the Gospel, return Thurible to Sacristy via the outer arc. Place the Thurible back on the stand.

Part Three - Presentation of Gifts: *(If additional incense is required use above instructions)*

1. Following the Prayers of the Faithful retrieve the Thurible (make sure the coals are hot) and add small amount incense. Proceed to candle stand (**Station 2**) via Tabernacle aisle.
2. After gifts are prepared on the Altar and Fr. Mike/Presider steps back, move forward and hand Thurible to MC/Deacon/Presider as required. (If Fr. Mike incenses, the Deacon will lead him. If no Deacon then MC will lead Fr. Mike). If visiting Priest, he may incense by himself as well as if the Deacon is instructed to incense no guide is required. Fr. Mike will incense the Altar on the Ambo side and then move counterclockwise around to baptismal font side of Altar and then back to the Ambo side.
3. The Presider will then incense the Deacon and then Deacon will incense the Presider. The Thurible will be passed back to the Thurifer.

Note: Deacon/Presider will incense the congregation after incensing the Altar.

4. The Thurifer (with Thurible) will lead Deacon to right side of Altar, center aisle. (See blue stars on page 6). The Deacon may need to gesture the congregation to stand. The Deacon will bow to the congregation. Thurifer will pass the Thurible back to Deacon. Deacon will incense the congregation then pass the Thurible back to Thurifer and then bow again. The Thurifer (with Thurible) will lead the Deacon over to the left side (choir side), center aisle to repeat congregation incensing procedure. The Deacon will return Thurible back to Thurifer.
Note: If there is overflow in the JP II center, after incensing the right side congregation, the Deacon and Thurifer will exit the worship space up the right side of the baptismal font ramp and proceed to JP II center to incense congregation. During the return, the Deacon and Thurifer will proceed down the baptismal font ramp (like during the entrance procession) to the choir side of the worship space to complete incensing.

5. Exit sanctuary via Tabernacle aisle and return to the sacristy. Standby to re-enter worship space. Add incense (2-3 spoonfuls).

Part Four - Elevations: (*Add incense as necessary prior to reentering the worship space.*)

1. Halfway through the Sanctus (Holy Holy, Holy), come down the Tabernacle aisle and proceed directly to a point between the Altar and baptismal font (top gray tile) **Station 4** and stand facing the center of the Altar until the end of the hymn. At the end of the hymn kneel facing the Altar.

NOTE: No incensing when Presider places his hands over the gifts.

2. When the Presider elevates the Host - Thurifer incenses 3 times (3 series of 3 swings).
3. When the Presider elevates the Chalice - Thurifer incense 3 x 3 (3 series of 3 swings).

NOTE: Stop incensing when Presider lowers the Host/Chalice even if you're not done with your (3 series of 3 swings).

4. At the start of the Memorial Acclamation, return to sacristy via Tabernacle aisle and place Thurible on stand

Note: At the sign of peace proceed to the other servers via outer arc and kneel with them until communion. After communion return to sacristy.

Part Five – Recessional Procession:

1. When the Presider returns to the Altar after Communion, retrieve the Thurible and add incense. During announcements proceed to **Station 3** (credence table side) via outer arc.
2. After final blessing, when Presider/Deacon approach the Altar and the Crucifer/candle bearers have moved to their positions, move forward to the right of the right candle stand and remain there until Presider bows on the baptismal font side of the Altar.
3. Thurifer leads recessional procession, the Thurible swings reverently in right hand just like the entrance procession.
4. Stop in commons for Fr. Mike's server blessing. May not get blessing with visiting Priest.

Following Mass:

1. Empty Thurible outside the day chapel door in the gravel on the left side and return it to the stand. *May need to add water to extinguish hot coals.*
2. Return Thurible stand to sacristy and put away incense equipment.
3. Clean up area and return to lower sacristy to remove your alb.

Thurifer Stations

