

# CRUCIFER'S GUIDE FOR THE SUNDAY MORNING FAMILY EUCHARIST

This is intended to remind you of important duties, rather than a complete guide. Always show appropriate reverence to the ambry, host and altars. Always pass the main altar so that it is to the left of you.

## Recent Changes

- Purification now takes place at the high altar, rather than in the sacrament chapel

## Preparation

- 1) Assist in setting everything up
- 2) Don your alb (the white robe)
- 3) Check for special arrangements with the priest. Certain services such as Parade services involve small changes to the proceedings.
- 4) Move the cross to the doorway in the vestry ready for your entrance
- 5) Arrange with the organist when you will begin the entrance procession

## Entrance Procession (First Hymn)

By about 9:30, the congregation will be seated and one of the clergy will have gone to say a few words to them. The choir will be assembled in the vestry with you. Join in the Server's Prayer (just say the "Amen" at the end if you forget the words). At the appointed time (as organised beforehand), process to the back of the Church, past the font and down the aisle. Continue straight on up to the high altar, passing the nave altar on your left. Bow your head and wait until the choir is seated. Tricky this, as you can't see them because you are still facing the high altar, but they are singing so you can hear them. Return the cross and sit in your seat. Follow the service card until the next hymn.

## The Gospel Procession (Second Hymn)

This bit is tricky, as you must judge when to go. For hymns with long verses or choruses, start about one and a half verses from the end. Allow approximately two verses for others. Go to the high altar, bow, collect the cross and walk past the main altar. Stop in the centre of the Church. Turn around. After the reading, everyone will move to one side so that you can return the cross and sit down again. Follow the service card until the next hymn.

## The Offertory (Third Hymn)

This one is easier. At the beginning of the hymn, get the cross and go to the back of the Church, round the font clockwise and back to the high altar to return the cross. Do not stop and don't forget to bow to the nave altar. Return to your seat.

## Communion

Receive communion standing in front of your seat. Sit while the congregation receives communion. After everyone has received communion, the clergy and servers go to the high altar. Normally you will need to take only the lids from the ciboria, but in some cases you may be asked to carry other things. When you get to the high altar, stand to the left of the altar and await instructions from the clergy. Follow everyone else back to the nave altar platform when finished. Follow the service card until the final hymn.

## The Final (Recessional) Hymn

You will need to judge this one too. Allow sufficient time to process out. Ideally, you should be just passing the last pew as the last words are sung. Allow about two and a half verses for this, more if they are short verses, less if they are long or have a chorus. Go to the high altar, bow, collect the cross and process down the centre aisle.

Stop when you reach about four pews from the back of the church. The exact position depends on the number in the procession, and isn't critical. The more people, the further back you need to stop. Turn to face the altar, and nod your head when the priest and choir bow. Bowing is impractical without hitting the cross! Turn around again, and continue processing, reversing the route you used for the entrance procession. Stand at the back of the vestry for the final prayer, then return the cross. There are quite a few things to put away, so please help out.

That's it. Well done, and thank you for your contribution.