

# Funeral Mass Altar Server Notes

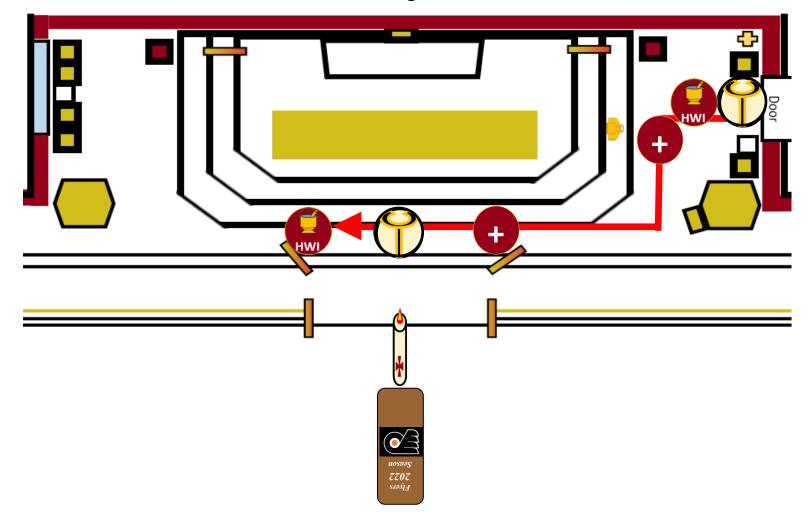
## Part 1: Report and Be Vested at 10:15 am, 15 minutes before Mass.

- --Yes, 10:15. At 10:15, you may still ask a question. After that is too late for questions.
- --There are two jobs at a Funeral Mass: Cross and Holy Water/Incense (HWI).

#### Part 2: The Procession IN

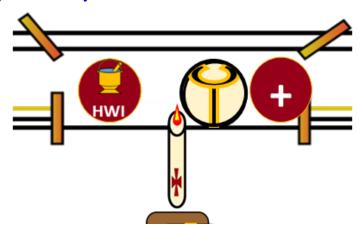
- --To let the people know we're starting, a server rings the sacristy door bell.
- --Cross and Holy Water (HWI) lead the procession in from the sacristy.

  Cross stops and lets Holy Water (HWI) and the priest get by.
- --Go to the front of the altar.
- --The Celebrant will come to the center and genuflect to the altar.



## Part 2: The Procession IN (continued)

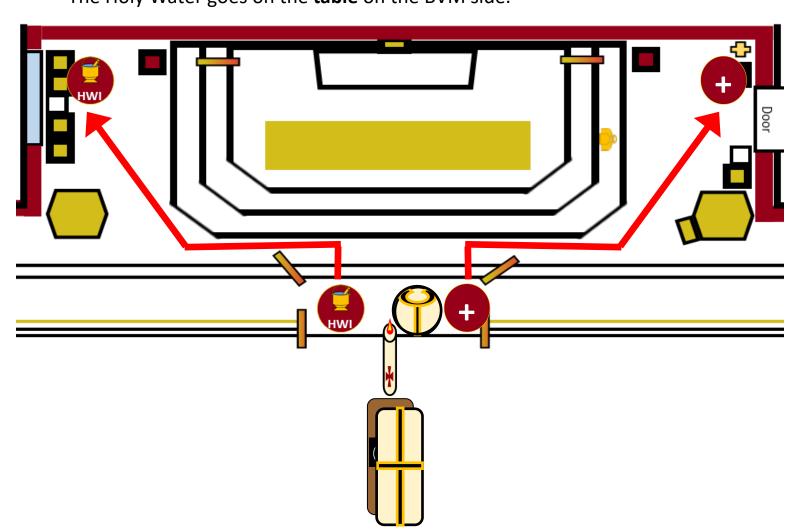
- --Turn and go with the Celebrant when he goes to the casket.
- --It's VERY IMPORTANT that you be in your CORRECT PLACES at the casket.



- --The Celebrant begins the prayers and uses the **Holy Water**. (The funeral director helps the family to place the Pall on the casket.)
- --Turn to face the altar with the Celebrant. Then go to your seats in the usual way.

  The Cross goes to the **stand** on the St. Joe side.

  The Holy Water goes on the **table** on the BVM side.

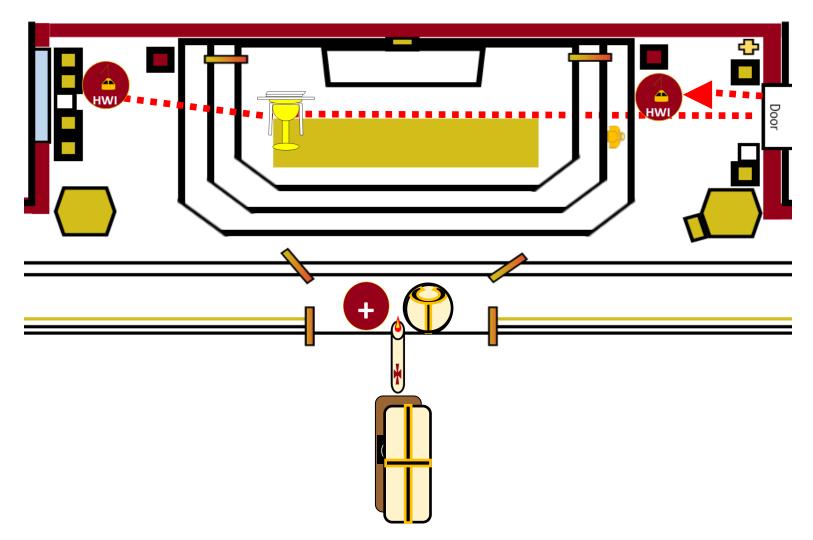


## Part 3: From the Liturgy of the Word to the Preparation of the Gifts

- --Sit and stand for the Liturgy of the Word, as usual.
- --As soon as the General Intercessions are finished,

**Incense** (HWI) places the **chalice** on the corner of the altar.

**Incense** (HWI) then goes **DIRECTLY** to the sacristy to get ready with the incense.



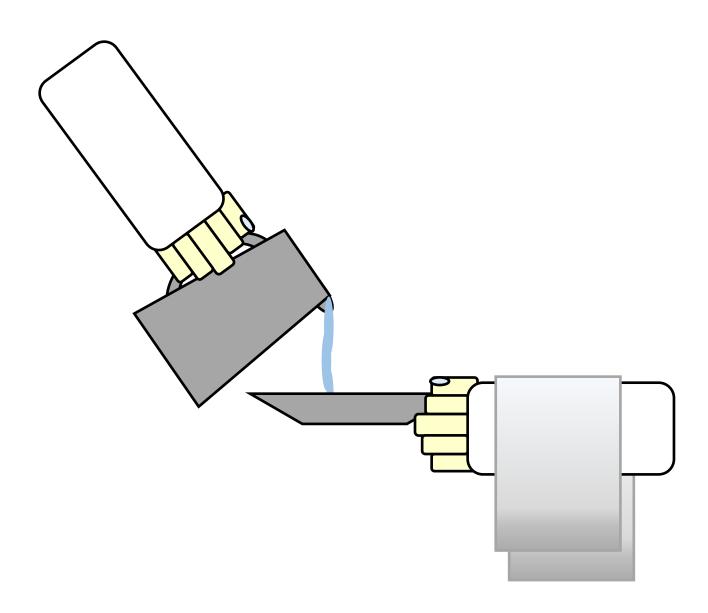
- --Cross places the Book on the altar (and the bookstand, for Fr. Welsh).
- --When the Celebrant goes to receive the gifts, Cross goes with him to help.
- --Cross puts any bread (ciborium or paten) on the altar.
- --Cross then brings the water and wine to the priest. Handles OUT, toward the priest.
- -- The priest uses the **incense**.

Incense (HWI) then returns the incense to the sacristy and stays at the Bells.

Part 3: From the Liturgy of the Word to the Preparation of the Gifts (continued)

--After using the incense, the priest will wash his hands.

Cross holds the bowl in the left hand,
the pitcher in the right hand,
and the hand towel draped over the left forearm.



## Part 4: The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- --Incense (HWI) rings the bells (One-Three-Three).
- -- During Holy Communion,

Cross is thinking, "I'll be ready with the water when the priest needs it."

Incense (HWI) removes the book (and bookstand) from the altar.

**Incense** (HWI) then goes to the sacristy to get ready with the incense.

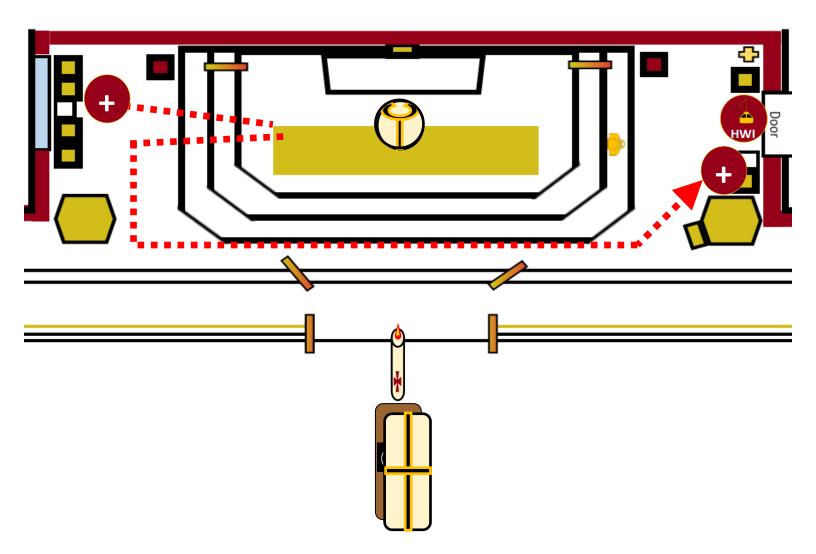
- --After Holy Communion, the priest puts the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.
- --Cross provides the water when the priest purifies the chalice.
- -- Cross helps to clear the altar.

As always, give the chalice a slow, careful, solo ride.

One hand flat on top, the other hand gripping the stem.

- --When the altar is cleared, **Cross** goes around the altar, stopping and bowing at the middle, to sit on the St. Joe side.
- --Incense (HWI) is standing in the sacristy doorway, slightly swinging the incense.

**NOTE: Cross** and **Incense** (HWI) are now **both** on the St. Joe side.



#### **Part 5: Final Commendation**

- --The priest prays the Prayer After Communion ("Let us pray...").
- --When the priest goes to the casket,

Incense (HWI) goes with him and stands at the priest's RIGHT side.

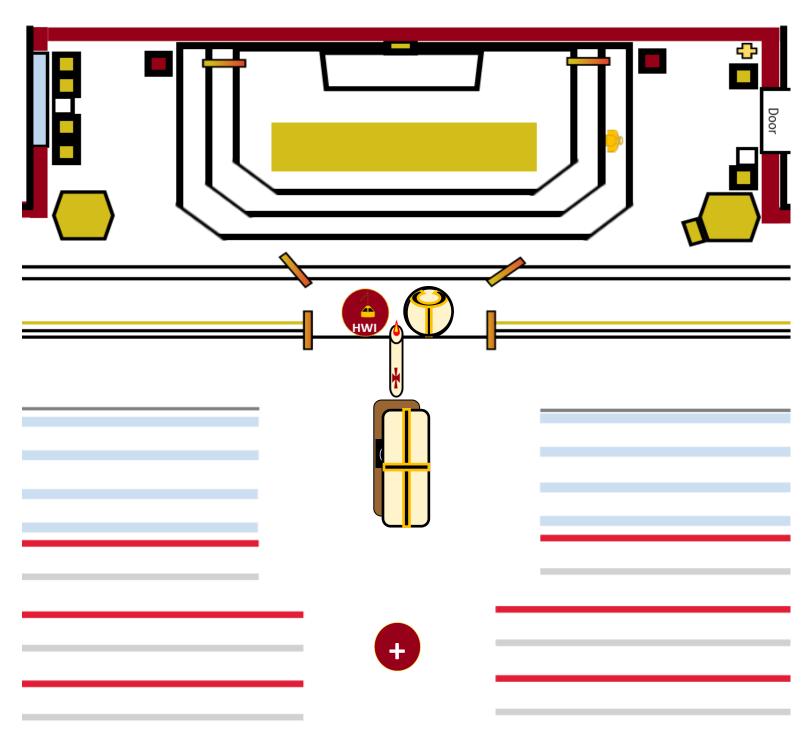
**Cross** goes to the center aisle, **past** the casket about six feet, and faces the altar.

--The priest addresses the people, then uses the **incense**.

This involves a handing back and forth of the **boat**, **thurible** and funeral **book**.

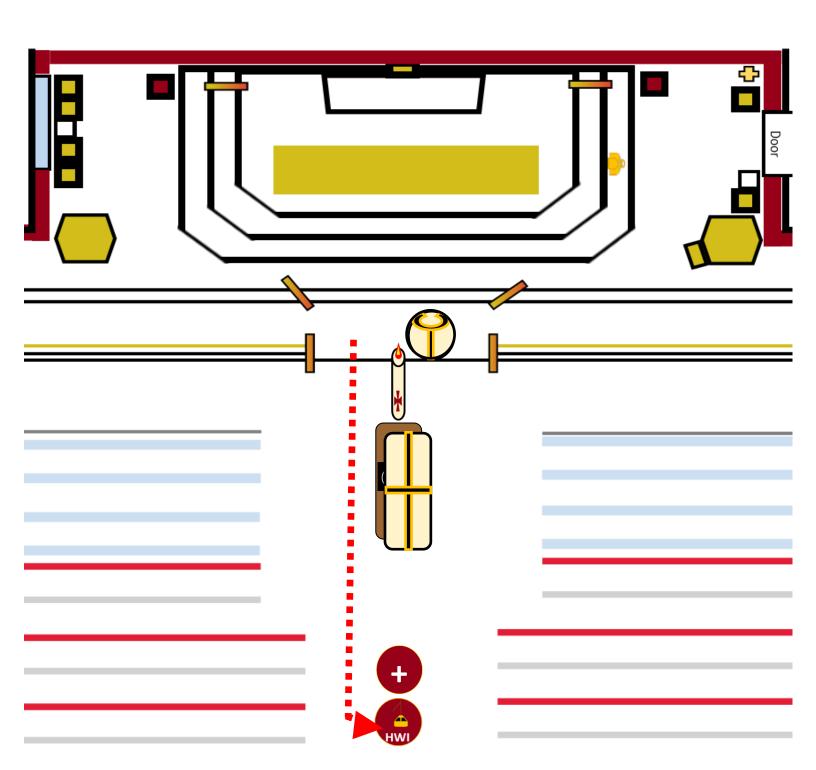
The "boat" is the round metal incense container.

The "thurible" is the incense burner on a chain.



## Part 5: Final Commendation (continued)

- --As soon as the priest finishes using the incense,
  Incense (HWI) goes to the center aisle past the casket and Cross.
  Now Incense (HWI) and Cross are both facing the altar.
- --The priest prays the Final Commendation, then goes to the center aisle and stands between **Cross** and the casket. (The funeral director will probably assemble the pallbearers at the casket.)

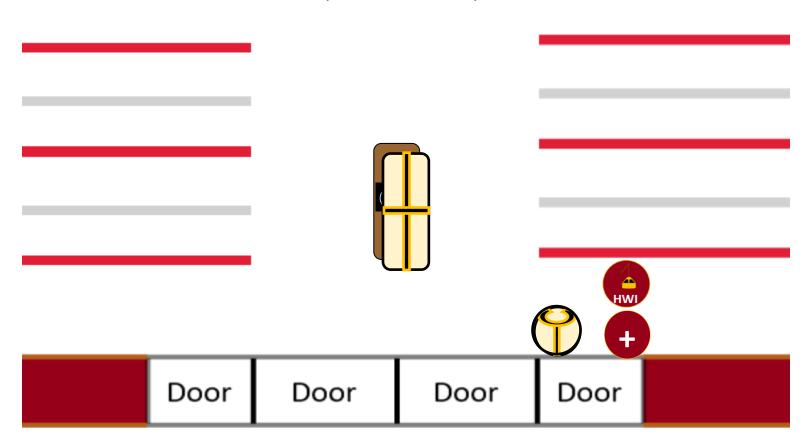


#### **Part 6: Procession OUT**

- --Incense (HWI), then Cross, then the priest lead the Procession OUT.
- --In the back of church, Incense (HWI) and Cross stop a few steps into the back aisle.
- --The priest might want to give you specific instructions for cleaning up afterwards.

**Cross** can bring the folded pall back to the sacristy.

Ask the sacristan what more you can do to help.



Thanks for Serving!