

# ICC THURIFER

## Solemn Mass

### Preparation:

- Arrive in the Sacristy at least 15 minutes before Mass.
- Light a charcoal (1) for the thurible 10 minutes before Mass.
- Make sure the boat is full of incense and is on the thurible stand in the server sacristy.

### General Guidelines:

- The thurible shall remain in the Th's left hand when incense has not been blessed by the Priest (the boat, if held, remains in the right hand).
- If the Th is holding the thurible, he is not required to follow the rubrics, but must remain standing.
- When the incense has been blessed, the thurible is then to be held in the right hand (the boat is transferred to the left hand) until the 'action' for which the incense has been blessed has been completed then it returns to the left hand.
- When incensing, hold the chain between the index and the middle finger, with the right hand close to the censer and the left hand at the end of the chain flat on the breast.
- When walking longer distances (i.e. sanctuary to congregation) hold the thurible with one hand (right hand when the incense has been blessed) and with the chain fully extended.
- When walking shorter distances (e.g. D to MC, gospel-side choir to epistle-side choir) the Th shall hold the thurible with both hands (the right hand closest to the censer, left hand at the end of the chain).
- When presenting the thurible to have incense added, open the cover approximately 6 inches using the chain. Hold the thurible elevated enough so that the Priest's forearm is parallel to the floor (this way it is not too high or too low). This is done with the right hand; the left hand remains on the disk.
- Whenever the Th turns at the centre of the sanctuary on his way to or from the congregation, he turns to his right, not to his left (i.e. clockwise).
- Whenever the Th ascends the altar steps holding the thurible, **he does not open the thurible until he is on the footpace.**
- The Th is not to swing his thurible when standing beside people or beside the altar steps.

### Procession and Ceremony:

- Bow to the crucifix and respond '*In nomine Christi. Amen.*'
- Th leads the procession, and therefore he shall be positioned in front.
- Th walks in procession with the thurible in the left hand.
- Th goes to the foot of the altar, makes a genuflection, and then goes to the server sacristy and places thurible on the stand.

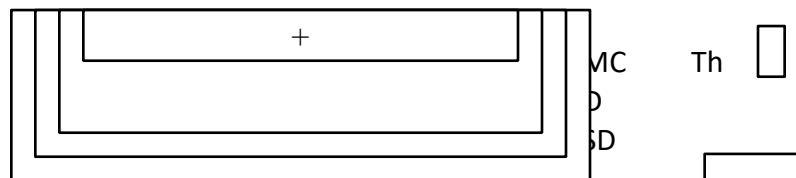
1) Incensation of Altar before Introit (after the prayers at the foot of the altar):

A. Rise and go to retrieve the thurible and boat from the server sacristy at the '*Deus conversus*' and wait in the doorway of the server sacristy.

- Go to the epistle side of the altar with boat and thurible, when C, D & SD ascend the altar and the MC comes around.
- Hand the boat to the MC when he approaches your left side.
- Bow (*low head bow*)<sup>1</sup>, then approach the Priest with the MC.
- Do not open the thurible until you are on the footpace and then present it to the Priest.
- The Priest adds incense, then he blesses it (be sure not to close the thurible until the Priest has blessed the incense).
- Then Th closes the thurible and passes the thurible to the Deacon.
- Then Th takes the boat from the MC.

B. Descend the epistle side of the altar:

- After receiving the boat, descend (turning by your right), then place the boat on the windowpane behind your seat and remain in position *in plano* on the epistle side of the altar far enough back to leave room for Priest to be incensed:



- Do not bow with the Deacon, SD, and MC when they incense the Priest.

C. Receive the thurible directly from the Deacon and then return the thurible and boat to the stand in the server sacristy. Immediately return to your place.

## 2) Gospel:

A. Once the ministers rise and move towards the altar after the Gradual & Alleluia (or Tract) rise and go to the server sacristy and get the thurible and boat. Go with both to the epistle side.

- Hand the boat to the MC when he approaches your left side.
- Bow (*low head bow*), then approach the Priest with the MC.
- Do not open the thurible until you are on the footpace and then present it to the Priest.
- The Priest adds incense, then he blesses it (again, do not close it until the incense has been blessed).
- Then Th closes the thurible and takes the boat from the MC.
- Keep the thurible (in right hand) and descend the altar with the MC (turning by your left), then place the boat on the credence table.

B. After descending the epistle side of the altar.

- Follow the MC to prepare for the gospel procession.

C. Gospel Procession (See below):

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<sup>1</sup> This is a low bow of the head with a slight inclination of the shoulders.

- Stand to the right of the MC and behind the Deacon.
- Do not swing the thurible



SD - D  
 MC - Th  
 AC<sup>2</sup> - AC<sup>1</sup>

- All genuflect, then turn in and process to the place where the Gospel will be chanted (MC and Th follow Acolytes).

AC<sup>2</sup> - MC  
 SD - D  
 AC<sup>1</sup> - Th

#### D. Singing of the Gospel:

- Upon arrival at the gospel position, turn to face the MC.
- When the D and SD arrive, turn to face AC<sup>1</sup>.
- Give the thurible to the MC with your right hand (after the MC blesses himself while facing the Priest).
- Profound bow at the incensing of the Gospel with the Deacon and MC.
- Receive the thurible from the MC with the right hand after he bows to Priest for the Holy Name (the Th should now switch the thurible to his left hand away from the Deacon singing the Gospel).
- Do not swing the thurible during the Gospel.

#### E. Incensing of the Priest (after the singing of the Gospel):

- Once SD has left, turn by your right and face the Priest and walk back to the centre at the foot with the Deacon on your left. Once there, give the thurible to the D.
- After the Priest has kissed the Gospel and is ready, profound bow to the Priest with the D and then D incenses him with three double-swings, then profound bow to him again and receive the thurible from D.
- At once go to the server sacristy, remembering to get the boat on the credence table, and prepare the thurible for the Offertory (if no sermon) or return the thurible and boat to the server sacristy and go to your seat (if sermon).
- After the '*Credo in unum Deum*' of the Creed, Th should go to the server sacristy and light another coal for the remainder of Mass.

### 3) Offertory:

- A. Once AC<sup>1</sup> places the cruets on the altar, go to the server sacristy to get the thurible and boat. Wait in the doorway.
- B. **After** AC<sup>1</sup> returns the cruets to the credence table go to the epistle side:
- Hand the boat to the MC when he approaches your left side.
  - Bow (*low head bow*), then approach the Priest with the MC.
  - Do not open the thurible until you are on the footpace and then present it to the Priest.
  - The Priest adds incense, then he blesses it.
  - Then close the thurible and pass it to the D, then take the boat from the MC.
  - Turn by your left towards the MC, descend the steps, then leave the boat on the credence table.
  - Follow the MC *in plano* to the centre of the sanctuary behind the SD where you both will make a genuflection.
  - Then ascend straight up to the left of the Priest and assist him with incensing the altar (supporting his elbow).
- B. Go to the left of D when he incenses the Priest:
- Once the final genuflection at the centre has been made, descend the altar steps at the front on the epistle side (going around the pillar) and stand to the left of the D.
  - Profound bow with the D while he incenses the Priest.
  - Lead the D to the right of the SD
  - The SD is incensed by the Deacon (2X2) from SD's right.<sup>2</sup>
  - D then gives the thurible to the Th.
  - Th incenses the D (2X2), followed by the MC (1X1; or 1X2 if MC is a cleric). You will have to go around behind SD to incense the MC.<sup>3</sup>
  - Then incense AC<sup>1</sup>, AC<sup>2</sup>, and Crucifer together (1 Centre, 1 Left, 1 Right); finally incense torchbearers (1 Centre, 1 Left, and 1 Right).
  - Genuflect before leaving sanctuary, turn by your right, then incense the congregation (1 Centre, 1 Left, and 1 Right).
  - Genuflect whenever you cross the tabernacle.
  - Do a low head bow each time before and after you incense (unless otherwise noted).
  - After incensing the laity, the Th should stand in the centre of sanctuary facing the tabernacle until the Priest chants '*per omnia saecula saeculorum.*'
  - Go to the right side of the TBs signalling them to process to the server sacristy.

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<sup>2</sup> If there are clerics in choir at Mass:

- Lead the D to the centre (going behind the SD) and genuflect. Turn in towards D and remain at his left as he moves toward the Gospel side choir.

- Commence incensing the Choir.

Incensing of clerics (Th leads the Deacon):

- Priests: Pastor, Monsignors (2X2), all other clerics in highest to lowest order (1X2).

- Genuflect in the middle of the sanctuary with D, then swing around to incense SD (all through this you are at D's left).

<sup>3</sup> Note also that the MC may be busy (responding to the '*Orate, fratres...*', turning pages, pointing out the Secret etc). Watch what he is doing and wait for him. If he has forgotten, clink the chains gently to remind him. Do this a couple of times. If he still forgets, then move on.

- Lead the TBs in procession to the server sacristy.
- Once the 'Sanctus' begins, lead the TBs in procession to their spot in the sanctuary.

#### 4) Consecration:

- A. When the D steps forward on the footpace after the 'Memento' of the living:
- Go and retrieve boat and thurible from the server sacristy.
  - Hand the boat to the MC and present him with the open thurible.
  - The MC will add incense to the thurible.
  - After incense is added, go to the epistle side, return the boat to the credence table, and go to stand *in plano* at the step, facing the Gospel side.
- B. Kneel on the first step when the D kneels.
- C. At the Elevation:
- Incense the Blessed Sacrament with three double swings (3X2).
  - Incense the Precious Blood with three double swings also (3X2).
  - Stand with the MC and return the thurible and boat to the server sacristy.
  - Then return to your seat.

#### 5) Receiving Communion:

- After the Priest consumes the Precious Blood the MC will give a hand signal to rise, at this point you pick up the communion paten from the credence and lead AC<sup>1</sup>, AC<sup>2</sup> & Cr to the centre. Go behind MC to get to your spot and stand where the red and white tile meet.
- All the servers will form a straight line:

Th – AC<sup>1</sup> – AC<sup>2</sup> – Cr – MC

- Genuflect, and then kneel (MC will signal both).
- After the SD and D receive communion, rise upon the signal from the MC.
- Immediately ascend the steps and kneel on the footpace.
- After receiving communion, rise, descend (turning towards the centre), genuflect, and then return to your seat and kneel.
- If there is a second distributor the Th will assist him with the paten.<sup>4</sup>

#### 6) Recession:

- A. During the Last Gospel, after signing yourself, go to your 'recessional position' behind the acolytes and face the altar.
- Genuflect at the proper time in the Last Gospel, then again upon the MC's signal, then **immediately** turn around and lead the procession out.

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<sup>4</sup> On all Sundays there will be a second distributor. Lead him down the Epistle side 'passage' to give communion to the laity. Once done, give him the paten and come back up the middle of choir. Genuflect and go to your seat and kneel.

TBs  
AC<sup>2</sup> – Cr – AC<sup>1</sup>  
Th

B. Lead the servers and clerics to the sacristy.

- In the sacristy, after the recession, bow to the crucifix with the ministers, then kneel for the blessing.

Afterwards Th puts away the thurible, refills the incense boat, and cleans up any mess made by the coals.