

Liturgical Procession

The **Lector** should be in the sanctuary 5 minutes before Mass begins. They should be seated at their place in the sanctuary during the prelude music.

After the prelude song is done. Look to the priest to give you the go ahead to begin the Welcome, Mass theme, celebrant of the Liturgy, Mass intention(s) and the assembly taking a few moments to greet each other.

Immediately after you encourage the assembly to greet those around them, you walk down the side aisle to the back of the Church.

(The Lectionary, Prayers of the Faithful and announcements should already be at the Ambo)

Introductory Rites:

The Mass begins with the entrance chant/song.

The order of the procession is:

Altar Server carrying the Processional Cross

Altar Server(s)

Eucharistic Ministers

Lector

(When there is not a Deacon present at Mass, the Lector carries in the Book of the Gospels and places it on the Altar.)

Deacon – Carrying the Book of the Gospels

Priest (Celebrant)

(The ministers should have two – three pews between them.)

The celebrant and other ministers enter in procession and reverence the altar with a bow. The altar is a symbol of Christ at the heart of the assembly and so deserves this special reverence.

As each minister comes to the sanctuary, the minister (s) bow reverently towards the altar and then proceed to stand in their places either in the sanctuary or in the assembly **(Eucharistic Ministers)**

When you carry in the processional cross, candles, or The Book of the Gospel, bow with your head only and keep the cross, candle or book upright.

On the occasion the Lector processes in with the Book of the Gospels, the book should be placed standing up in the center of the Altar. The priest celebrant will bring the Book of the Gospels to the Ambo during the Alleluia.

The Liturgy then proceeds as usual.

Concluding Rites:

During the Concluding Rites, announcements may be made after the Prayer after Communion.

The celebrant then blesses the people assembled.

Sometimes, the blessing is very simple. On special days, the blessing may be more extensive. In every case, the blessing is always trinitarian: "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." It is in the triune God and in the sign of the cross that we find our blessing.

After the blessing, the deacon dismisses the people. In fact, the dismissal gives the liturgy its name. The word "Mass" comes from the Latin word, "*Missa*." At one time, the people were dismissed with the words "*Ite, missa est*" (literally meaning "Go, she—meaning you, the Church—has been sent"). The word "*Missa*" is related to the word "*missio*," the root of the English word "mission." The liturgy does not simply come to an end. Those assembled are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Eucharist to the world.

The order of recession:

Altar Server carrying the Processional Cross

Altar Server(s)

Eucharistic Ministers

Lector

Deacon

Celebrant

The Processional Cross will walk down to the forth pew and turn around and face the altar.

The Altar Server (s) will walk down to the third pew and turn around facing the altar.

The **Eucharistic Ministers** will walk to the second pew and turn around facing the altar.

The **Lector** will walk down to the first pew and turn around and face the altar. (The Book of the Gospel's is not carried out)

Deacon and Priest will line up and face the altar. (Following the Priests cue) all will reverently bow to the altar and then turn around to recess out.

(Spacing between ministers is two – three pews.)