

Incense at St. Mary

Incense Etiquette

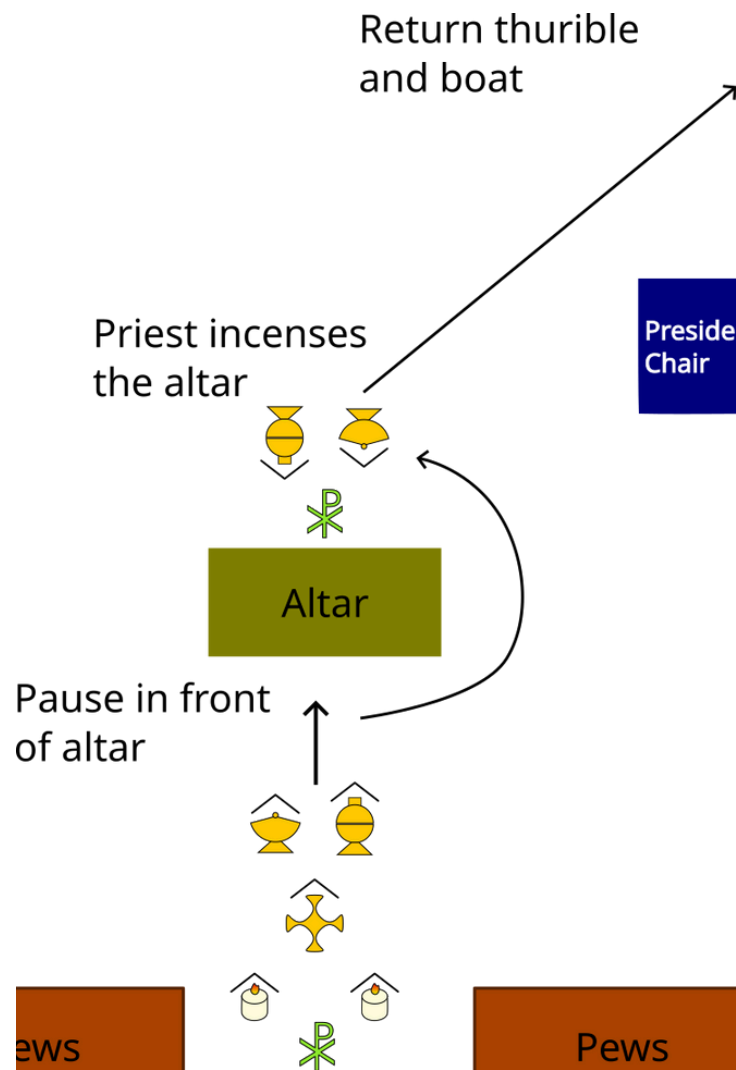
- The thurible should always be in motion while you're holding it---unless someone is trying to put incense into it. Swing it back and forth using your wrist. Practice before Mass with a cold thurible to get a feeling for it.
- The thurifer and the boat-bearer should always be together, similar to how the candle-bearers always move as a unit.
- Remember that you're swinging around a very hot object. Be careful not to light yourself or anything else on fire.

Before Mass

- Clean out the thurible. If the ashes are COLD, you can dump them in the sacristy trash can. Hot ashes should stay in the thurible. Light two coals and place them in the thurible.

Introductory Rites

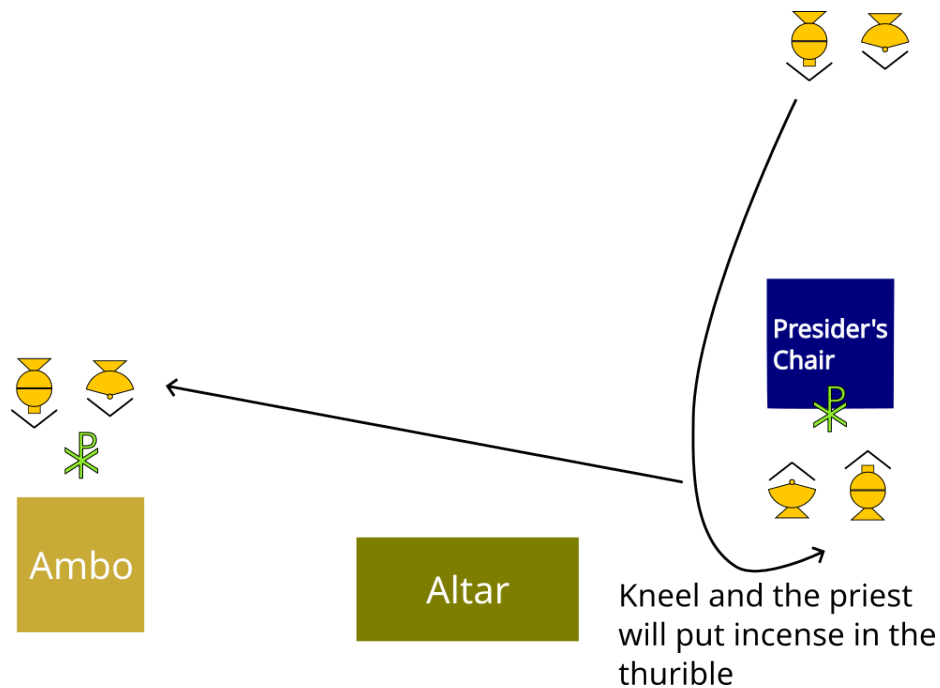
- Approach the priest, who puts incense in the thurible.
- Lead the procession into church.
- Instead of returning to your seats, stand behind the altar. The priest will take the thurible and incense the altar. After you have been given the thurible back, return it to its stand and sit down.



Liturgy of the Word

BEFORE THE GOSPEL PROCESSION

- Kneel at the priest's chair so the priest can fill the thurible with incense.
- Go to the back of the ambo. When the priest arrives, he will take the thurible and incense the book of the Gospels. After the priest reads the Gospel, you can put the thurible and boat away and return to your seats.



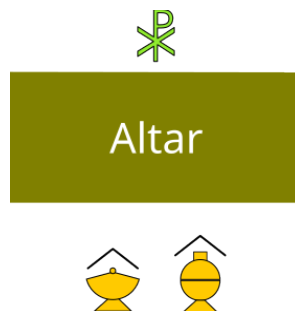
- Before the consecration, the thurifer may want to check the thurible and make sure the coals are still hot. If not, light one or two more.

Preparing the Altar

- After the altar is fully set up, go to the priest. He will put incense in the thurible and incense the altar.
- When you are given the thurible back, incense the priest. If you are incensing a single person, do three sets of three swings directly at the person being incensed. If you are incensing a group, swing to the left, right, and center.
- Incense any concelebrating priests.
- Incense the congregation. They should stand; if they don't, gesture for them to do so.

Consecration

- The thurifer and boat-bearer should check that the coals in the thurible are still hot. If not, add one more.
- During the *Holy, Holy*, the thurifer and boat-bearer should go kneel *in front of the altar*.



- Bells:** rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring

- ## Concluding Rites

- Altar
- Turn around
- Process to back of church
- Pews
- Pews
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- The diagram illustrates a church layout with an altar at the front, pews on the sides, and a central aisle. Arrows indicate the processional path: starting from the back of the church, moving forward, turning around the altar, and then moving back to the back of the church.