

# Incense at St. Lawrence

## Incense Etiquette

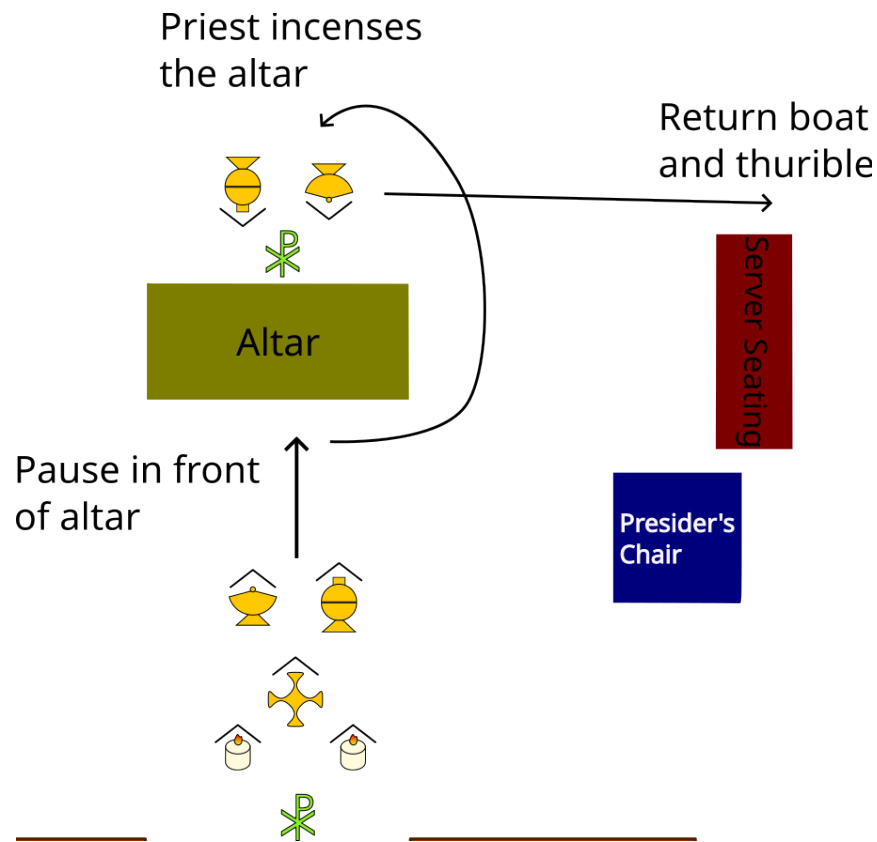
- The thurible should always be in motion while you're holding it---unless someone is trying to put incense into it. Swing it back and forth using your wrist. Practice before Mass with a cold thurible to get a feeling for it.
- The thurifer and the boat-bearer should always be together, similar to how 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

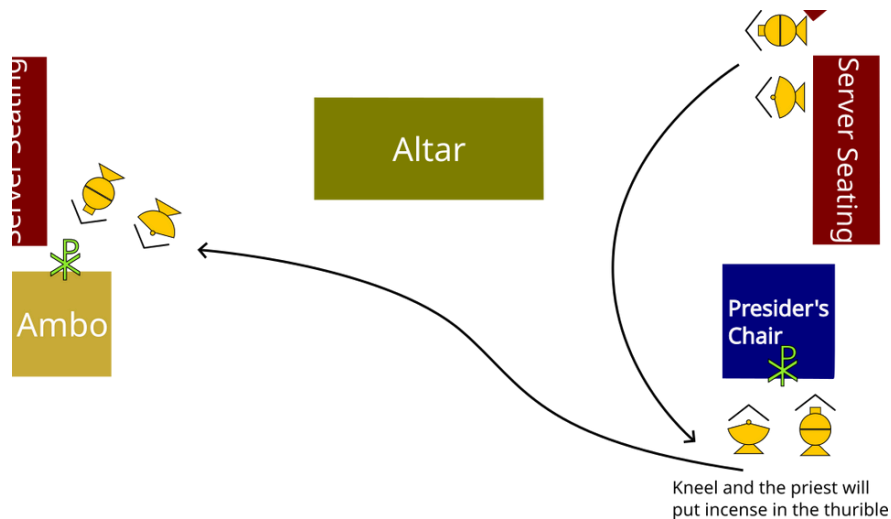
- Approach the priest, who puts incense in the thurible.
- Lead the procession into church.
- Instead of returning to your seats, stand behind the altar. The priest will take the thurible and incense the altar. After you have been given the thurible back, return it to its stand and sit down.



## 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*.



- When the priest extends his hands over the chalice and the bells are rung, the boat-bearer should quickly spoon incense into the thurible.
- When the priest elevates the Host, the bells will ring three times and the thurifer will incense in three sets of three. Try to synchronize your actions!

**Incense:** one two three      one two three      one two three

**Bells:** rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring    rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring    rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring

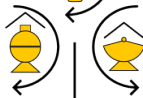
- Do the same thing when the priest elevates the Chalice. Afterwards, return the thurible and boat to their proper locations and kneel in the usual positions.

## Concluding Rites

- The thurifer and boat-bearer lead the procession out of the church.

Altar

Turn around



Process to back of church

Pres  
Cha

Pews

Pews

