

Incense

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 the 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, dumping any ashes into the sacristy trash can. Light two coals (or four at St. Francis) 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 for incense
- Go to the back of the ambo. The priest will take the thurible and incense the book of the Gospels. After the priest reads the Gospel, you can 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 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

- During the *Holy, Holy*, all servers should go kneel *in front of the altar*. The candle-bearers bring their candles and the crucifer should bring the bells. The thurifer will be in the center, with the boat-bearer and the crucifer on either side. The two candle bearers will be on either side of those three.
- When the priest extends his hands over the chalice and the crucifer rings the bells, the boat-bearer should quickly spoon incense into the thurible.
- When the priest elevates the Host, the crucifer will ring the bell three times and the thurifer will incense in three sets of three. Try to synchronize your actions! It should sound something like this:

Incense: clank clank clank clank clank clank clank clank clank

Bells: rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrring

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

Concluding Rites

- The thurifer usually does not process out with the thurible. The thurifer and boat-bearer should instead be behind the candle-bearers but in front of the priest.