

# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Entrance Procession:

After the people have assembled, an opening song is sung as the priest, altar servers, and the ministers enter the church and process to the altar.



The procession is led by the server carrying the processional cross, with two servers carrying candles on either side of the cross, forming a straight line.

At the foot of the altar, the servers caring the cross and candles do not bow. The cross is put into the stand behind the altar; the candles are place on either side of the ambo. Observers should bow (reverencing the altar) then go to their seats. All must remain standing.

If incense is being used during the Mass the servers holding the Thurible (The Thurifer) and incense Boat lead the procession. When they have reached the bottom step of the sanctuary they go up the steps, and stand to the right of the Altar, near the ambo and wait for the priest.

The priest will come to the front of the Altar, venerate it, and then turn to his seat.

[For the blessing of the Altar with incense the priest will turn to the servers who will be waiting, and then proceed to place incense into the Thurible from the Boat. He will then take the Thurible, from the thurifer and bless the altar. When the blessing is completed, the priest will hand the Thurible to the thurifer. The thurifer will then place the Thurible in its proper place, (on the stand) and both servers will go to their seats.]