

# Acolytes

## Low Mass

### Preparation

1. Cruets
2. Missal
3. Altar cards
4. Candles are lit.

### Position-Specific Principles

1. Hands are always folded at the breast. If you are using one hand for something, place your other hand flat on the bottom of your sternum.
2. Genuflect every time you cross the center line.
3. The touching of the Holy Eucharist is reserved to priests; the touching of the sacred vessels is reserved to subdeacons, deacons, and priests.
4. When striking your breast at the *Confiteor*, *Domine non sum dignus*, etc., cup your right hand and touch the tips of your fingers to your breast.
5. You will kneel on the floor during the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar and the Leonine Prayers right after Mass. Otherwise, you will kneel on the first step throughout Mass.

### Ceremony

1. Sacristy before Mass
  - a. After vesting yourself, stand next to the Celebrant with your hands folded to help him vest.
    - i. When the maniple is next to vest, pick it up for him, kiss the cross, and hand it to him.
    - ii. Grab the cincture, making sure that it is not twisted, bring it behind the Celebrant, handing the loop to his left hand.
      1. (Think: lefty-loopy)
    - iii. Once the chasuble is the only vestment left, fold it up twice to allow him to grab it more easily.
  - b. The Celebrant may make silent prayer before Mass starts.
  - c. When the Celebrant is ready, both bow to the crucifix, and then one of these two responsories is said:

P: Adjutorium nostrum + in nomine Domini

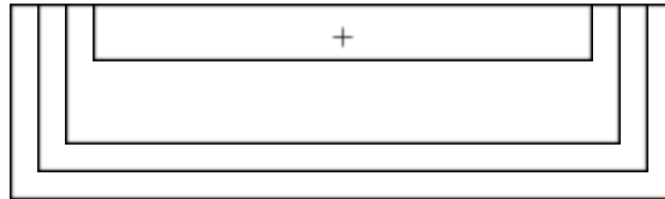
S: **Qui fecit caelum et terram.**

P. Procedamus in pace,  
S: **In nomine Christi. Amen.**

- d. Taking holy water in your hand, offer holy water to the Celebrant. Make the sign of the cross, ring the bell, and process to the altar.

2. Procession

- a. Process in front of the Celebrant and arrive here:

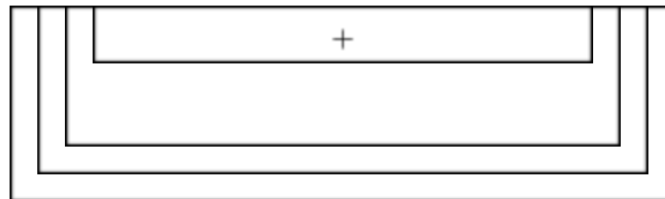


$AC^2 - C - AC^1$

- b. Receive the biretta from the Celebrant with *solita oscula*.
- c. Genuflect with the Celebrant.
- d. Before rising from the genuflection, hold the hem of the Celebrant's alb.
  - i. (Think: Biretta genu-help)
- e. Set the biretta on the sedilia, and return to your spot at the foot of the altar.
- f. When the Celebrant returns, genuflect with him.
  - i. He will rise, you will not as you will go down into a kneel.

3. Prayers at the Foot - Collect

- a. Make the appropriate responses.
- b. Assist the Celebrant by lifting his alb.
- c. Stand, and go to your new position, kneeling on the first altar step.



$AC^2$

$AC^1$

- d. Make the sign of the cross when the Celebrant starts the Introit.

e. Respond to the Celebrant's Kyrie Eleisons as such:

P: Kyrie eleison.

S: **Kyrie eleison.**

P: Kyrie eleison.

S: **Christe eleison.**

P: Christe eleison.

S: **Christe eleison.**

P: Kyrie eleison.

S: **Kyrie eleison.**

P: Kyrie eleison.

f. If the Celebrant says the Gloria, make the sign of the cross with him during the last line, "Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen."

g. Make the appropriate responses for the Collect.

#### 4. Lections

a. Stay kneeling in your spot for the Epistle

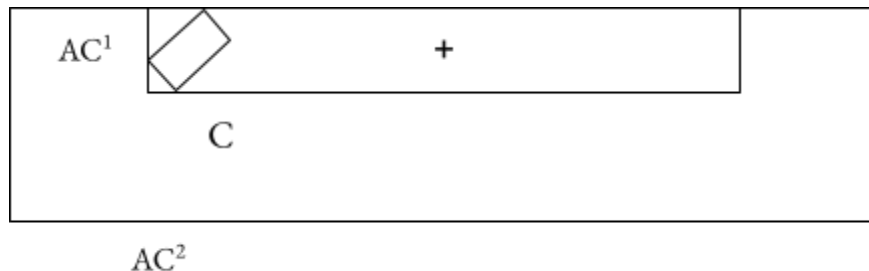
b. At the end of the Epistle, the Celebrant will place his hand on the altar to signal your response, "Deo gratias".

c. Immediately after your response, AC<sup>1</sup> gets up, and without genuflecting, stands to the right side of the altar.

d. Once the Celebrant finishes the Gradual and Alleluia/Tract, AC<sup>1</sup> ascends to the altar, grabs the Missal, goes (the short way) to the center of the foot of the altar, genuflects, and places the Missal on the Gospel side of the altar, at an angle.

i. When AC<sup>1</sup> genuflects, AC<sup>2</sup> stands at his spot.

e. After placing the Missal on the altar, AC<sup>1</sup> stands like so, facing the Missal.



f. Make the appropriate responses and signs.

g. AC<sup>1</sup> goes to his original sanctuary spot after this dialogue.

i. He goes the long way.

- ii. AC<sup>2</sup> takes a step back to let AC<sup>1</sup> by.
    - iii. If the Holy Name (Jesu, Jesum, Jesus) is used in the first few lines, AC<sup>1</sup> stays at his spot until he bows at the Holy Name.
  - h. When the Celebrant finishes the Gospel, he will pick up the book to kiss it. When he does so, respond with, “Laus tibi, Christe.”
  - i. Kneel immediately, except:
    - i. If there is a Credo, stay standing.
    - ii. If the Celebrant is to preach, meet him at the foot of the altar, and genuflect with him.
  - j. If the Credo is said, cross yourself during the last line of the prayer, “...et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.
5. Offertory
- a. Chalice veil
    - i. After the Celebrant says, “Oremus”, AC<sup>1</sup> ascends to the right of the Celebrant (long way), and is handed the chalice veil.
    - ii. Lie it flat on the altar, fold it into thirds, and leave it near the Lavabo card.
  - b. Water & Wine
    - i. AC<sup>1</sup> grabs the wine; AC<sup>2</sup> gets the water.
    - ii. Take off the lids.
    - iii. With AC<sup>1</sup> standing on the right, make a low head bow, and ascend to the Celebrant when he finishes offering the Host.
    - iv. Standing near the Epistle-side edge of the altar, hand the wine, then the water to the Celebrant, with *solita oscula* for only the objects, not the Celebrant’s hand.
    - v. When both cruets have been received back, make another low head bow to the Celebrant, and return to the credence table.
  - c. Lavabo
    - i. AC<sup>2</sup> gets the water cruet and basin; AC<sup>1</sup> gets the finger towel.
    - ii. Ascend in the same manner (with bows) as before when the Celebrant finishes the *Veni Sanctificator*.
      - 1. However, AC<sup>1</sup> will be to the left, AC<sup>2</sup> to the right.
    - iii. AC<sup>1</sup> pours water over the canonical digits of the Celebrant until the Celebrant gives the signal to stop.
    - iv. The Celebrant then wipes his fingers on the towel.
    - v. Once the towel has been received back, go back to the credence table as before.
    - vi. Replace the lids on the cruets, and set it all back on the credence table.
  - d. Suscipiat
    - i. With AC<sup>1</sup> to the right, both ACs proceed to the foot of the altar, genuflect, and kneel at their sanctuary positions, as in 3,c.
    - ii. Respond with the *Suscipiat* when the Celebrant completes his turn.
    - iii. Make the appropriate responses to the Preface dialogue.

6. Canon

- a. AC<sup>1</sup> rings the bells three times at the *Sanctus*.
- b. AC<sup>1</sup> rings the bells one time at the *Hanc igitur* (extension of the Celebrant's hands over the oblata).
- c. When the Celebrant begins the *Quam oblationem* (lots of signs of the cross)
  - i. Both ACs stand.
  - ii. Meet in the middle.
  - iii. Do not genuflect.
  - iv. Ascend to either side of the Celebrant
- d. At both consecrations

Celebrant	AC <sup>1</sup>	AC <sup>2</sup>
Say words of Consecration		
Genuflect	Rings bells once	
Elevate the Blessed Sacrament	Lift the chasuble 6-8 inches. Ring bells three times.	Lift the chasuble 6-8 inches.
Genuflect	Ring bells once	

- e. When finished
  - i. Both stand up.
  - ii. Descend the stairs in the middle.
  - iii. Genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament.
  - iv. Return to kneeling in sanctuary spots.

7. Pater Noster to Communion

- a. Remain kneeling in your spots, and make the appropriate responses.
- b. When the Celebrant begins the *Agnus Dei*, both ACs prepare the Communion rail, if necessary.
- c. AC<sup>1</sup> rings the bells once at each of the Celebrant's *Domine non sum dignus*.

8. Communion of the faithful

- a. When the Celebrant has received the Host
  - i. AC<sup>1</sup> gets the servers' paten.
  - ii. Both meet in the middle.
  - iii. Genuflect and ascend.
  - iv. Kneel on the top step of the predella.
  - v. When the Celebrant has received the Precious Blood, bow profoundly while kneeling and say the *Confiteor*.
  - vi. Remain kneeling until the Celebrant begins the *Indulgentiam*.
  - vii. Say the *Domine non sum dignus* three times with the Celebrant, striking your breast at each one.

- viii. If you are receiving Holy Communion, you will now.
- ix. When both have received an opportunity to do so
  - 1. Both stand and descend
  - 2. AC<sup>1</sup> genuflects as he does not hold the paten.
  - 3. AC<sup>2</sup> has the paten and does not genuflect.
- x. AC<sup>2</sup> follows to the right of the Celebrant, holding the paten under the chins of the Communicants
- xi. When there are no more Communicants the Celebrant takes the paten
- xii. AC<sup>2</sup> assists the Celebrant by lifting his alb.
- xiii. Both kneel until the tabernacle door has been locked.

## 9. Post-Communion

### a. Ablutions

- i. Both rise, genuflect in the middle, and proceed to the credence table.
- ii. AC<sup>1</sup> gets the wine, and when the Celebrant tilts the chalice toward him, AC<sup>1</sup> ascends from the side and pours wine directly into the chalice.
- iii. AC<sup>1</sup> descends to the side and meets AC<sup>2</sup>, who has grabbed the water cruet.
- iv. When the Celebrant approaches, both make a low head bow, and, with AC<sup>1</sup> to the right, AC<sup>1</sup> pours wine over the Celebrant's fingers.
- v. AC<sup>2</sup> then pours water over his fingers.
- vi. Both make low head bow and return to credence to leave cruets there.

### b. Missal & Chalice veil

- i. Both ACs meet in the middle, with AC<sup>2</sup> to the right.
  - 1. This is opposite of what's usual.
- ii. Both genuflect and ascend to the altar (long way)
- iii. AC<sup>1</sup> grabs the Missal; AC<sup>2</sup> drapes the folded chalice veil over his folded hands.
- iv. Both descend to the middle (short way) and genuflect.
- v. With AC<sup>1</sup> going first, both ascend to the opposite side of the altar (short way).
- vi. AC<sup>1</sup> sets the altar Missal in its original position and waits.
- vii. AC<sup>2</sup>
  - 1. Sets down the chalice veil
  - 2. Offers the burse to the Celebrant, who puts the corporal in
  - 3. Sets the burse down.
  - 4. Offers the Celebrant the chalice veil
  - 5. Offers the Celebrant the burse
- viii. Once this is complete, both ACs descend (long way), and meet in the middle.
- ix. Genuflect, and, if necessary, adjust Communion rail.
- x. Return to sanctuary spots, kneeling on the first step.

## 10. Last Gospel to Recessional

- a. Stand after the final blessing has been given.
- b. Make the appropriate responses and gestures.
- c. When the Last Gospel has concluded
  - i. All meet at the foot of the altar and kneel for Leonine prayers.
    - 1. For this, you will kneel on the floor.

- ii. When those have concluded, AC<sup>1</sup> retrieves the biretta.
  - iii. All genuflect
  - iv. AC<sup>1</sup> gives the biretta to the Celebrant with *solita oscula*.
  - v. Turn around and recess.
- d. When back in the sacristy, make the following dialogue:

Prosit  
**Pro omnibus et singulis.**  
**Everyone kneel.**  
**Jube domne, benedicere.**  
Benedictio Dei omnipotentis, Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti  
descendat super vos et maneat semper. Amen.

- e. Help clean up.