



# ORDER OF THE MASS REVIEW

(FROM THE ALTAR SERVERS PERSPECTIVE)

Parish Of St. Michael – St. Malachy

East New York Brooklyn

### **1. The Introductory Rite**

- The cross bearer and the candle bearers lead the procession from the back of the church to the front. (On rare occasions where incense is used, the incense bearer would go before the cross.) Candle bearers should walk on either side of the cross, not behind. The candles always accompany the cross.
- We walk in a dignified and unhurried pace.
- At the front, the cross and candle bearers go up the steps, (without any bow or genuflection) move to the left in the space between the altar and the ambo, and then turn to face the congregation.
- The servers remain standing until the rest of the procession led by the priests and deacon all reverences the altar.
- The servers then move to place the cross and candles in their respective stands, before going to their bench where they remain standing.
- The server bearing the Roman Missal brings it to the celebrant. The deacon or celebrant will open it. When finished, return with the book to your bench.

### **2. The Liturgy of the Word**

- During the word the servers remain at their seats. They stand or set as the congregation.

### **3. The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

- When the collection begins, two servers (usually the candle bearers) will begin preparing the altar. They'll do the following:
  1. Take and give the Roman Missal to the clergy.
  2. Bring all of the sacred vessels (the chalice, corporal, communion cups, purificators, and small cruet of water) to the clergy.
- The cross (and Candles) bearer should be watching for when the collection is almost finished, then get the cross, move down the side aisle, and then over to the middle aisle.
- The cross bearer should wait until the collection and gifts bearers are ready, before moving.
- The cross bearer then leads the group down the aisle and continues to take the cross back to its stand as the clergy receives the gifts.

- NOTE: When the clergy gets up to receive the gifts, the other two servers should go with them, one standing on either side of them.
- When the priest or deacon hands each server the bread or the wine, the servers should go back to the altar and wait to give the clergy these gifts.
- The servers should then get the water, bowl and towel for the priest to wash his hands.
- When finished, the server returns these items back to the table, along with anything else the clergy hands them from the altar that they no longer need.
- During the Consecration, there should be three short rings of the bells, first when the host is elevated, and again, when the chalice is elevated.
- Servers should remain at their bench until the Sign of Peace. Give the Sign of Peace to each other and then wait to be greeted by the clergy.

NOTE: Do not leave the sanctuary to give the sign of peace to the congregation.

- At communion time, the servers should join the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in lining up behind the altar (facing the congregation) to wait to receive the Eucharist.
- When the clergy and the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion return the sacred vessels to the altar after communion, servers should be watching in case they're needed to take cloths, books or any other items to the side table.

#### **4. The Concluding Rite**

- As the closing song begins, the servers should get the candles and cross and go immediately down the front steps of the sanctuary, move to a position at the first pew in the center aisle, and then turn to face the altar.
- Wait until the rest of the procession gets in place and is ready to move.
- When the celebrant is ready, he will move with the deacon to kiss the altar and then come down the steps in front of it. Meanwhile the Lectors and the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will come forward and line up on either side of the clergy, facing the altar.
- As soon as the group, led by the priest, genuflects, the cross and candle bearers should turn around and begin the procession to the back of the church. NOTE: Those carrying the cross and candles do not bow or genuflect.
- After the procession, you should return the cross and candles back to their stands, and then move to the sacristy to neatly hang up your vestments.