



Your child will be receiving a candle that has been blessed at the end of this session. Please note that the base of the candle contains a sticker and the candle should not be completely burned.

What is your child learning during this session?

PRAYER BEFORE SERVING

Father in Heaven,
Your Son, Jesus Christ,
Showed His love for you
By serving His needy brothers and sisters.

I now ask you to give me your help
As I serve You and Your people.

Open my mouth to praise You
In word and song.
Open my ears to hear Your Word.
Open my hands to do Your work well.

Take from my heart all the evil and
Distracting thoughts.
Help me to know what I should do,
And do it well.

Help me to serve reverently at
Your holy altar,
And so give you praise and glory,
Now and forever. Amen.

Sign of the cross

- Please no butterflies
- Should be slowly and firmly
- Reverently and thoughtfully

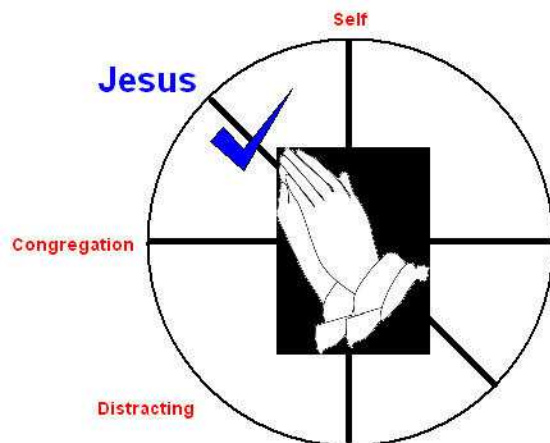
You do not make the sign of the cross if you are holding something (candles, cross, book).

Hand Position

- Palm to palm
- Thumbs over each other to form an X
- Keep the elbows near the body.
- Hands should be held in front pointing at 45 degree angle.

The position of your hands helps to remind you of who the mass is about. The mass is not about yourself, the congregation or distracting thoughts.

Pointing at 45 degrees is pointing to heaven and reminds you of Jesus and God.



Where are the Candle Bearers in the procession?

- Behind the cross bearer and in front of the lectors (readers).
- Standing side by side about an arms length from the cross and from each other.



Lighting of session candle

- by new server

Places of the Sanctuary

- Base of the Sanctuary
- Baptismal side – has the baptismal font
- Chapel side – small chapel which has the tabernacle.
- Altar
 - the altar represents Christ Himself.
 - It is the place where the sacrifice of Jesus is offered to the Father and made present to us.
- Ambo – stand used to hold the Lectionary book or Book of the Gospels during the readings
- Credence table
 - baptismal side – bowl, towel, ciborium
 - centre – Sacramentary book
 - chapel side – bells, chalices, purificators
- Celebrant's chair / Father's chair
 - deacons are seated on the baptismal side of Father
 - con-celebrating priests on the chapel side of Father.
- Tabernacle
 - Where the consecrated hosts are kept between masses.
 - We know Jesus is present by the sanctuary light being on.
- Ambry
 - contains the Holy Oils used for sacraments
 - When are they blessed? Chrism Mass at the start of Holy Week (Easter)
- Oil of Salvation / Catechumens
 - When is it used during baptism? Father anoints the child on the chest in a sign of the cross.
- Oil of Chrism
 - When is it used during baptism? Father anoints the child on the crown of the head in the sign of a cross.

Where do the candle bearers sit? The pew on the baptismal side of the sanctuary and sitting on the baptismal side closest to the ambo.

Why is this important? When the servers join Father at the base of the sanctuary to receive the gifts during the offertory the altar servers need to be next to Father. Sitting in the same order as you would be standing next to father makes it easier to remember where you need to be. If Father hands you a gift you do not give it away.

Candles = Celebration

Birthday

- What are some of the things that happen when you go to a birthday party?
- Who are you celebrating?
- When I was younger, my aunts and uncles would congratulate my parents on my birthday. I always thought it was weird because it was my birthday, not theirs. What they were doing was acknowledging the gift of my birth from God to my parents.



Holding the Candles

- Always hold the candles using two hands. The hand at the top of the handle should match the side the bearer is walking on.
 - To remember... if someone from the pew was trying to blow out the candle which hand would you use to block the air and protect the flame?
- Candle bearers are performing their duties always in pairs.
- For your first time as a candle bearer hold the candle slightly to one side if you are nervous so that the flame is not directly in your face.
- Candles should be held at the same height as your partner. Take into consideration the height of your partner and do not hold the candles too high or low.



Duties of the Candle Bearer

In addition to participating in the mass (signing, praying, smiling, paying attention):

- Walking in procession with the candles and placing them on either side of the ambo.
- Escorting the Book of the Gospels from the altar to the ambo.
- Lighting the altar candles during the offertory.
- Amen patrol
- Walking out in procession with the candles.

How do I know when to escort the Book of the Gospels?

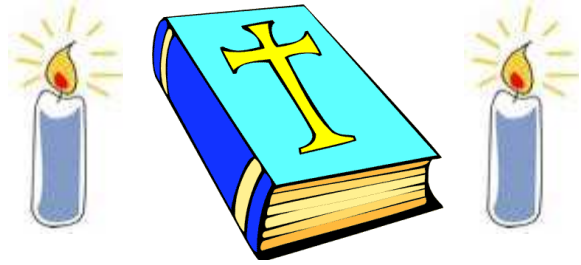
- After the second reading watch Father to see when he stands for the Gospel Acclamation. Either Father or a Deacon will walk to the altar for the Book of the Gospels.

Where do I walk and why does it matter where I walk?

- From the pew, walk forward to pick up the candles. Walk behind the ambo and walk over to the front of the altar. One candle bearer will stand on each side of Father, facing the congregation. A good place to stand is at the corners of the altar.
- Watch Father to know when to turn towards the ambo.
- When standing at the ambo, stand behind Father and one arm length beside.

Think of the candles as quotation marks for the Book of the Gospel

- When you read a chapter book the words stand out in the story because they are surrounded by quotation marks. They give emphasis to what the characters are saying.
- The candles during the Gospel acclamation are the same thing for the Book of the Gospel. They give honor, reverence and emphasis.



Practice – Gospel Acclamation and Candle Lighting

General Information

- Why two candles when we process in for mass? The candles represent Christ's humanity and divinity.
- Why are there three candles on each side of the altar? They represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Final Prayer

O God,
as light comes from this candle,
may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
warming our hearts
and brightening our way.
May Christ our Saviour bring life
into the darkness of this world,
and to us, as we wait for his coming.

Amen

What to bring for the next sessions?

For session two through four – altar serving manual

Session Three – one non-perishable food item. Will be donated to Saint Vincent de Paul.