

Acolyte and Crucifer Instructions

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When you serve as an ACOLYTE or CRUCIFER, you begin by putting on an ALB. An ALB is a full length white robe which is tied at the waist by a CINCTURE, which looks like a white rope. There are several sizes of albs and cinctures for you to choose from. Pick one that fits you neatly and won't cause you to trip. Keep in mind that the lower half of your pants and your shoes may still be visible. Choose to wear nice shoes and pants on days that you serve as an acolyte or crucifer.

Tying a CINCTURE

After putting on your alb, choose a CINCTURE that is about twice your arm span.

1. Fold the cincture in half
2. Hold the folded side in your right hand
3. Using your left hand, fold that end over about two inches to create "bunny ears".
4. Fold "bunny ears" together to form a loop.
5. While maintaining the "loop" with your left hand, wrap the remaining cincture around your waist
6. Place the extra cincture through the loop in your left hand
7. Pull to tighten gently around your waist

CRUCIFER and ACOLYTE duties

Crucifers and acolytes help prepare the sanctuary for worship. The CRUCIFER carries in the processional cross and the ACOLYTE lights the candles. The crucifer always enters the sanctuary first and the acolyte always follows.

Duties of the CRUCIFER

Arrive 15 minutes before the worship service is to begin. Go to the closet where the albs and cinctures are stored and put one on.

Place a bulletin, sermon worksheet and pencil on front chair in the sanctuary to use during the worship service.

Locate the PROCESSIONAL CROSS. It may still be up at the altar or may be in the church narthex or lobby. Retrieve it and wait for the worship service to begin.

When the processional music begins, lift cross in front of you, so that it is above your head and the “Jesus” symbol is facing forward, and slowly walk down the center aisle toward the ALTAR. When you reach the ALTAR PLATFORM, BOW slightly to show reverence.

Proceed onto the platform, walking along the LEFT side of the ALTAR, until you come to the WOODEN CROSS.

Place the processional cross, with the “Jesus” symbol facing out, into the holder at the base of the wooden cross.

Retrace your steps to the front of the platform.

Continue walking to the chairs located on the right side of the altar, at the front of the sanctuary. *Always walk in front of the altar, never behind!

Sit respectfully and engage in the worship service. Remember, you are in front and the whole congregation can see what you are doing. You are a role model for the younger children sitting in worship. When it is time for

communion, follow the usher's lead. If the ushers forget to lead you, take communion when the ushers do.

During the second verse of the final hymn or song, retrace your steps back to the wooden cross. DO NOT stop to bow before proceeding onto the platform.

Remove processional cross, making sure that the "Jesus" symbol is facing out. Lift it so that it is above your head and retrace your steps to the front of the platform. BOW slightly and then proceed slowly down center aisle to the narthex.

Place cross in floor stand

Hang alb and cincture up neatly in closet

Retrieve bulletin and worksheet/pencil from your chair in the sanctuary.

Know that you have served God by serving as a crucifer and for you, we give thanks.

Duties of the ACOLYTE

Arrive 15 minutes before the worship service is to begin. Go to the closet where the albs and cinctures are stored and put one on.

Place a bulletin, sermon worksheet and pencil on front chair in the sanctuary to use during the worship service.

Locate matches in the usher cabinet and the CANDLELIGHTER in the church narthex or lobby. Retrieve it and wait for the worship service to begin. When handling the candlelighter, be careful not to touch the metal part. Your fingerprints will cause it to tarnish.

Just before the worship service begins, light the wick.

When the processional music begins, lift the lit candlelighter above your head in front of you and slowly walk toward the ALTAR, following about

five paces BEHIND the crucifer. If you walk too quickly, the candlelighter will blow out.

When you reach the ALTAR PLATFORM, BOW slightly.

Proceed onto the platform, and light the LEFT candle first. Then walk and light the candle on the RIGHT. This will allow the candle closest to the cross to be lit the longest.

EXTINGUISH candlelighter by sliding wick down and IMMEDIATELY back up. If you do not push the wick back up, it will become stuck inside of the candlelighter.

Proceed back to the front of the platform and continue walking to the chairs located on the right side of the altar, at the front of the sanctuary. * Always walk in front of the altar, never behind!

Again, sit respectfully and engage in the worship service, remembering that you are in front of the whole congregation. Pay attention to the usher's directions during communion. Remember, if the ushers forget to lead you, take communion when the ushers do.

During the second verse of the final hymn or song, follow the crucifer back to the altar platform. DO NOT stop to bow before proceeding onto the platform.

Using the bell part of the candlelighter, extinguish the candle on the RIGHT, then extinguish candle on the LEFT.

Follow the crucifer to front of platform. BOW slightly and then proceed about five paces behind the crucifer down center aisle to the narthex.

Place candlelighter in the floor stand.

Hang alb and cincture up neatly in closet.

Retrieve bulletin and worksheet/pencil from your chair in the sanctuary.

Know that you have served God by serving as a acolyte and for you, we give thanks.