

Processions

Regular and Solemn

A procession is a formal walk through the church, or to a specific place. Many persons can be included in the procession or just a few. It all depends upon the kind of liturgy that is being celebrated—a great festival or a regular kind of Sunday, sung (high) or said (low) mass.

The Regular Masses

The Said (low) Mass

- The procession for the said (low) mass begins with an entrance from the side (near the organ case) and proceeds to the altar.

- The following positions are used for this mass:

Torch bearer Crucifer Torch bearer

Deacon

Celebrant

- Depending on the availability of servers, the Gospel procession may occur with only torches accompanying the book.
- The server who assists in setting the table and the ablutions should refer to the procedures contained in the duties of the ministers' cross position.
- The service concludes with a retiring procession down the center aisle led by the crucifer and torches.

The Sung (high) Mass

- The procession for the sung (high) mass begins with an entrance from the back of the Nave (near the baptismal font) and proceeds to the altar.

- The following positions are used for this mass:

Thurifer

Torch bearer Crucifer Torch bearer

Choir

Torch bearer Torch bearer

Minister's Cross

Book

(Bearer may be a server or sub-deacon)

Assisting clergy

(Guest preacher and/or deacon)

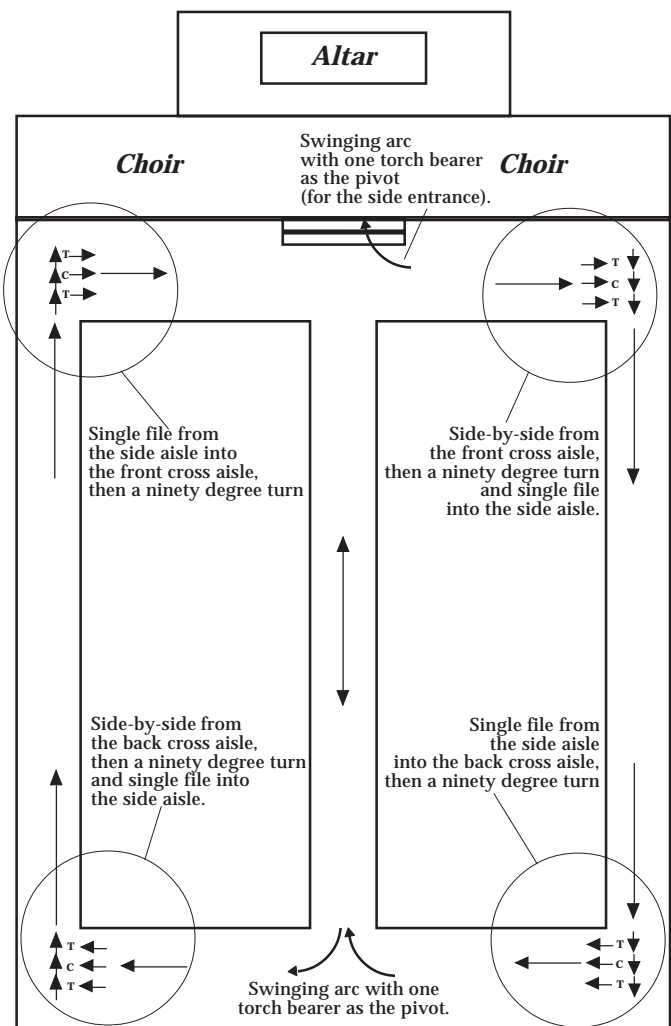
Celebrant

- See instructions for specific positions for responsibilities and movements.

Turning Corners in Procession

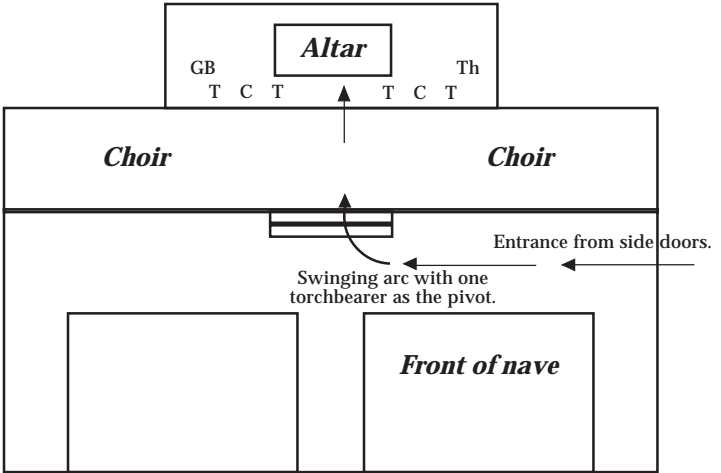
Because the two side aisles are not the same width as the center aisle, here are directions how to turn the corners.

- When turning from the center aisle into either the front cross aisle (the one in front of the lectern and the pulpit) or the back cross aisle (the one with the baptismal font), the preferred movement is a swinging arc with one torch bearer as the pivot, the pivot point depending on the direction of the turn. This is also the case when turning from the front aisle toward the altar.
- When turning from either the front or back cross aisles into either of the side aisles, walk until the group of acolytes is centered on the width of the aisle, then make a ninety degree turn and walk in single file into the aisle. This maintains the positions of the acolytes on either side of the cross—to light the way—and eliminates the tight passage of two side-by-side acolytes in these narrow aisles. This movement is done when the crucifer says to turn.
- When turning from either of the side aisles into the front or back cross aisles, walk across the width of the aisle while maintaining the acolyte/cross/acolyte positions in single file. Then turn ninety degrees as a unit when the crucifer directs and walk forward.

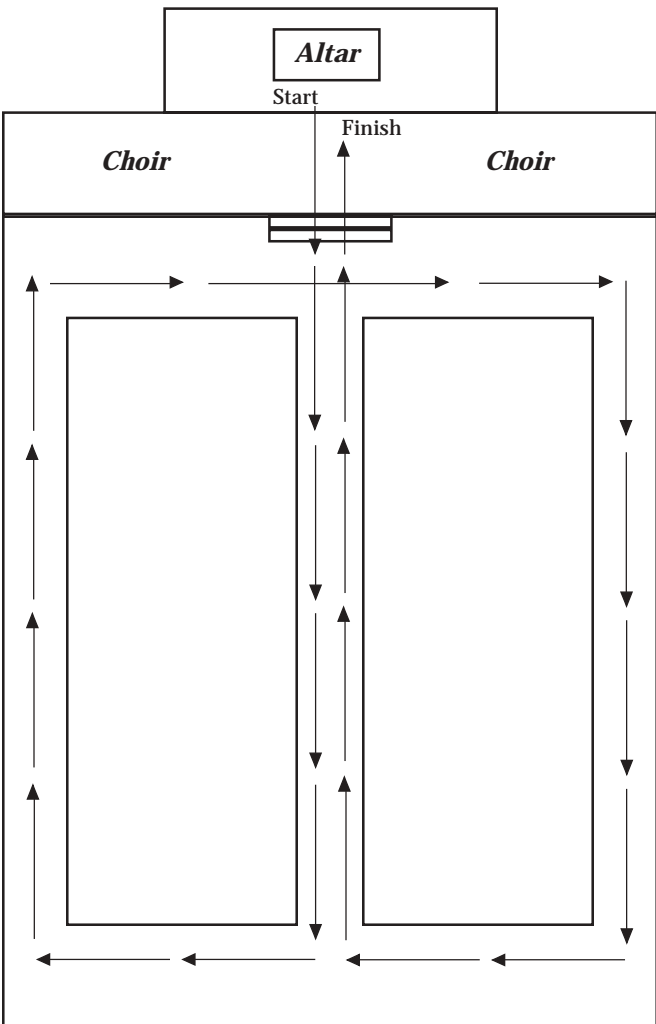


- The following diagrams detail the route of the solemn procession.

ENTRANCE FROM THE SIDE AND PROCESSION TO THE ALTAR



ROUTE OF THE SOLEMN PROCESSION FROM THE ALTAR



Solemn processions are appropriate for the great feast days of the Church and on days of penance, such as Ash Wednesday. Often the Great Litany will be sung.

- The following positions are used for this procession:

Torch bearer Crucifer Torch bearer

Choir

Torch bearer Torch bearer

Ministers' Cross

Book

Thurifer

Assisting clergy

Celebrant

- The solemn procession at All Souls begins with the entrance from the side doors (near the organ case) and proceeds to the altar. At the steps from the nave to the choir, the crucifer and torches make a swinging arc turn with the torch bearer on the crucifers' right as the pivot point.
- The crucifer and torches enter the sanctuary, turn in line to the right as a group and stand inside the communion rail on the Epistle side, facing the wall with the credence shelf. The crucifer says when to turn during these movements. This position allows the choir's entry into their places.
- The thurifer stands on the epistle side as well; if the altar is to be censed, present the thurible to the priest for the incense and blessing.
- The ministers' cross, second torches and book all stand on the Gospel side inside the communion rail facing as the crucifer and torches. Since the torches will arrive at this position before the ministers' cross, they should stand apart so that the cross bearer can stand between them.
- At the deacon's "*Let us go forth in peace,*" the thurifer will take position in the chancel in the usual manner; the crucifer and torch bearers will assume their usual position in front of the altar (still inside the communion rail).
- At the crucifer's lead, turn and walk down the center aisle; the choir and the remaining servers and celebrants follow the usual procedure for a retiring procession. The book bearer moves to the Gospel side of the choir. However, this acolyte may also walk in the procession (ask the celebrants preference). At the baptismal font, the procession turns right across the back of the nave and turns right to and proceed up the Gospel side aisle. The procession crosses the front of the nave and turns right down the Epistle side aisle. The procession concludes normally up the center aisle to the chancel.
- The retiring procession is the same as a regular mass.
- See instructions for specific positions for responsibilities and movements.