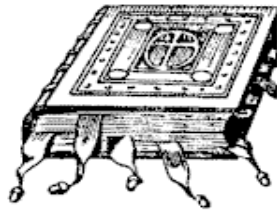


SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

PARISH

ALTAR SERVER HANDBOOK FOR FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS



...and I will go
of my youth.

onto the altar of God, to God the joy

(From Psalm 42)

Altar Server's Prayer to St. John Berchmans

Dear St. John Berchmans,

We call on you as the patron of all who are young, especially those who serve at God's altar. Be our guide and protector. Be with us always. Help us to be faithful to our duties and responsibilities. Help us to be attentive, energetic and caring as we serve. May all that we do at the altar bring us closer and closer to Jesus.

Amen.

St. John Berchmans, patron of youth and of altar servers, pray for us.

FUNERALS

Three servers are needed for a funeral. At the start of the funeral, there is 1 Cross Bearer and 2 acolytes. One acolyte will hold the Holy Water Bucket (who will also be the *Thurifer*) and the other will hold the priest. The procession will start from the Main Church sacristy and will consist of the Cross Bearer, Holy Water Bucket Holder, and Candle Bearers. Process across the front of the Church (no bowing at this time) and down the middle aisle to the Baptismal Font. If the casket is already at the front of the Church, then the priest and the three servers will begin the mass standing next to the casket. The casket is brought in and sprinkled with Holy Water by the priest. The funeral pall is then placed on the casket by the family. After prayers, as the music and hymn begins, the procession starts up the main aisle. The Cross Bearer will put the cross in the holder and all servers will return to their seats. The Mass then continues as on a Sunday.

After Holy Communion and eulogy from the family, the Cross Bearer will get the Cross and he/she and another server will proceed to the lower end of the casket. The Thurifer will get the Incense Boat and incense and will stand with the priest in front of the casket. The priest will incense the casket. After the priest is finished, the Thurifer will join the other servers on the lower end of the casket. (If the Thurible is very smoky, just take a few steps backwards.) After prayers are finished, the priest will join the servers at the lower end of the casket. The priest will genuflect and turn to join the recessional. The Altar Servers will lead the priest towards the Narthex of the church, where the procession will stop before exiting the church.

The cross bearer and the thurifer can return their items. The remaining Altar Server will wait with the priest and will receive the folded funeral pall from the funeral director. Then they will return directly to the Main Sacristy, at which time all will clean up and extinguish all candles. Return albs and cinctures to the cabinet, *hanging them up properly. Very important!!*

WEDDINGS

The priest and the two servers will begin mass in the sanctuary. Mass will continue as on a Sunday.

After the homily, the priest invites the bride and groom and bridal party to the center of the Sanctuary for the marriage ceremony. (Two) servers are needed at

this time: one for the Holy Water Bucket and one for the plate with the rings. Both servers will stand beside the priest on the Blessed Mother side of the altar. After the priest blesses the rings, the Holy Water Bucket is returned to the Credence Table. The priest takes both rings and the plate is returned to the Credence Table. The servers will now remain in their seats. Wedding vows take place now. Mass will continue afterwards as on a Sunday. After Mass, there is no recessional for the priest or Altar Servers. They wait for the newly married couple to leave church first and then exit right to the Sacristy.