

# The Holy Week Manual

## Volume 2



Holy Thursday

## **Preparation**

The altar is prepared as for feasts, with a white chalice veil, Missal cover, and tabernacle veils. The altar cross is covered with white. The six candles are lit, and the missal is at the Epistle side. On the credence table, besides the regular things for Mass, is the rattle. On the table by the angel another chalice is placed, with a pall and paten, also the white silk veil for it and the white humeral veil.

The processional cross, covered with purple, stands in the vestibule with the acolyte candles. On the side altar is the small canopy called the umbrella. In the sacristy, white Mass vestments are laid out for the celebrant, and also a white cope.

## **Mass**

High Mass follows as usual except that the Psalm *Judica me Deus* is omitted from the prayers at the foot of the altar as at funerals, and that during the *Gloria in excelsis* the bells are rung, then not again till Holy Saturday. At the Sanctus and elevation the rattle is sounded. After the *Agnus Dei*, the second Mc brings the second chalice, with its coverings, from the credence table and puts it on the altar. After his Communion, the celebrant puts the second consecrated Host into this chalice, lays the pall over the chalice, on the pall the paten up side down, and the veil over all. He uncovers the ciborium and genuflects.

Mc 1 says the Confiteor, and Holy Communion is given as usual. After coming back to the altar the celebrant puts the ciborium in the tabernacle and closes it. From now on Mass is said according to the rules for the Blessed Sacrament exposed. The empty chalice used at Mass is put on the credence table by Mc 2. While the priest gives Communion to the people, the thurifers light charcoal.

## **Procession to the Altar of Repose**

When Mass is ended, the celebrant genuflects to the Sanctissimum in the chalice, and goes to the sedilia where he takes off the chasuble and maniple and puts on the cope, assisted by the Mc's. The thurifers bring the thuribles from the sacristy and go to their benediction spot, where they stand until the priest and Mc's go to the foot of the altar. The crossbearer and acolytes go to the entrance to the sanctuary, where they stand as to process out.

Everyone but the crossbearer and acolytes makes a double genuflection, and then incense is put on in both thuribles, first in Th 2, then in Th 1, but no blessings or kisses are used.

The celebrant incenses the Sanctissimum with Th 1 using the usual three swings. Mc 2 is on the celebrant's left, so Th 1 kneels behind Mc 1 and to the right a little, approximately at the corner of the carpet. After the incensation, the thurifer takes the thurible back from Mc 1 and returns to his spot. Mc 1 then brings the humeral veil and puts it on the priest's shoulders.

The celebrant goes up to the altar and genuflects. He takes the chalice in his left hand, holding it through the humeral veil; and he lays his right hand on top of it. The celebrant turns his back to the altar and the choir starts the hymn *Pange lingua*.

Everyone stands and makes a double genuflection, then all turn and process to the Altar of Repose. The crossbearer and acolytes lead the way, if there are torchbearers they come next, and then the thurifers walk facing each other and swinging their thuribles in

the middle between them. The Mc's walk on either side of the celebrant, Mc 1 using the clapper, and they are followed closely by the umbellina bearer, who holds the canopy over the celebrant.

The crossbearer leaves the cross in the vestibule, and in the choir loft all divide, so that the celebrant may pass. Th 2 goes to the Gospel side with Ac 2, but Th 1 and Ac 1 stay on the Epistle side till the celebrant and Mc pass, and then follow. The twothurifers kneel behind the celebrant and Mc, and the acolytes are on either side of them.

The celebrant goes straight up to the altar and places the chalice on it. All the servers kneel. The celebrant comes down and the humeral veil is taken off. He puts on incense, only in Th 1 and without a blessing, and incenses the Sanctissimum.

The celebrant stands, genuflects, puts the Sanctissimum in the urn, genuflects again, and then closes and locks the urn. He comes down, and all get up and make a prostration. The acolytes leave their candles, and then the celebrant removes the white vestments at the vesting table in the choir loft and wears only the amice, alb, cincture, and purple stole when the procession returns to the main altar.

### **The stripping of the altars**

The servers go to their spots, and thethurifers put away thethuribles. Vespers are then sung, and when they are finished the servers line up with the celebrant at the foot of the altar. He has Mc 2 and acolyte 2 on his left, and Mc 1 and acolyte 1 on his right. The priest bows, the servers genuflect, and the celebrant begins the antiphon *Diviserunt sibi*.

The choir sings the psalm while the celebrant goes up to the altar and takes off the three altar cloths. The Mc's help him to do so, and take from the altar the flowers, reliquaries, and rugs, so as to leave only the risers and the six candles, which get snuffed by thethurifer. The acolytes,thurifer 2, and the crossbearer stand with equal numbers on the Epistle and Gospel sides, on the ground, and take from the Mc's anything that is given to them.

In the same way all other altars in the church are striped. All line up at the foot of the altar, genuflect, and thethurifers lead the procession out.

Compiled by  
Justin Eldracher for  
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church  
Fraser, MI  
A.M.D.G.