



CEREMONIAL GUIDE FOR MASS  
WITH BISHOP ANDREW COZZENS

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This will help you prepare for Mass with the Bishop. Those needing more details can find them in the *Ceremonial of Bishops* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1989). The Bishop typically brings an alb, miter, and crosier with him; please provide chasuble and stole of the appropriate liturgical color.

**1. Entrance Rites**

- The Entrance Procession takes place as usual. The Bishop processes last, wearing the miter and carrying the crosier. The deacon carries the *Book of the Gospels* in procession behind the candles (the *Lectionary* and *Missal* are not carried in procession). If there is a deacon not carrying the *Book*, he processes to the right of the Bishop. If servers are designated as miter and crosier bearers, they follow the Bishop.
- The Bishop removes the miter and crosier at the foot of the sanctuary, then genuflects to the Blessed Sacrament (or bows to the altar if the tabernacle is not nearby).
- After kissing the altar, if incense is used, the Bishop, accompanied by the deacon, incenses the Cross and altar. When finished they go to the chair as usual.
- The *Missal* should be ready in case the Bishop needs it for the Entrance Rites. The Penitential Act (decided upon prior to Mass) is done, followed by the *Gloria* if the liturgy calls for it. The server brings the *Missal* and holds it open for the Collect.

**2. Liturgy of the Word**

- After the "Amen", the Bishop sits and receives the miter.
- After the Psalm (and second reading, if applicable) a brief silence is observed. If incense is used, the thurifer approaches the chair and (kneeling, if the Bishop is seated; otherwise standing) opens it for the Bishop to stoke the coals. The thurifer steps aside and the deacon (or, if no deacon is present, a concelebrating priest) approaches the chair and asks: "Your blessing, father" (*not "Bishop"*). He bows profoundly and signs himself as the Bishop blesses him.
- Following the blessing, the Bishop removes his miter. All stand for the Gospel acclamation. At the words, "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to..." the crosier is given to the Bishop.
- When the Gospel concludes the crosier is taken from the Bishop. The deacon (or priest) does *not* kiss the *Book of the Gospels* but brings it to the chair. He presents the *Book* opened to the page from which he proclaimed. The Bishop takes the book, kisses the opened page, and with it blesses the congregation. He gives the *Book* back to the deacon who puts it in a place of reverence as usual.
- *If the Gospel is proclaimed from the Lectionary, the book is **not** brought to the Bishop, but the deacon kisses it at the ambo as usual and leaves it there.*
- The Bishop may or may not preach wearing the miter and/or holding the crosier; determine his preference before Mass.

- The Bishop does not use the miter or crosier for the Creed or the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful).
- If a particular introduction to the Universal Prayer or concluding Collect are to be used (such as those in the Appendix in the *Missal* or specially composed for this Mass) the appropriate book/folder is presented the Bishop.

### 3. Liturgy of the Eucharist

- The Bishop sits and receives the miter while the deacon and servers prepare the altar as usual. When the gifts are ready, the crosier is brought to the Bishop, and accompanied by the deacon and servers, the Bishop receives the gifts in the designated place. He hands all gifts to the deacon and servers and proceeds to the altar.
- At the altar, the Bishop removes the miter and crosier and places the bread and wine on the altar as usual. If incense is used, he incenses the gifts, Cross, and altar; he is then incensed by the deacon, then washes his hands as usual.
- After the Prayer over the Gifts, the zucchetto (skull cap) is removed and placed on the chair. Concelebrants are invited to approach and stand behind the altar.
- *Before Mass, clarify which Preface and Eucharistic Prayer the Bishop will use; assign concelebrants' parts as necessary; and let the Bishop and other distributors of Communion know their assigned stations.*
- The Eucharistic Prayer and Communion Rite proceed as usual.
- After Communion has been distributed, servers bring water and a lavabo bowl to purify the Bishop's fingers. Meanwhile, the deacon or concelebrant reposes the remaining hosts and purifies the sacred vessels (unless this is to be done after Mass).
- After the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the Tabernacle, the Bishop places his zucchetto upon his head and sits for a brief silence.

### 4. Concluding Rites

- The server brings the *Missal* for the Prayer after Communion. After it is concluded, a server brings the miter. The Bishop puts it on and any announcements are made.
- The Bishop begins the final blessing (with or without the episcopal dialogue – “Our help is in the name of the Lord...” – as determined before Mass); just before he makes the three-fold Sign of the Cross, the crosier is given to the Bishop.
- After the blessing, the deacon dismisses the assembly.
- The Bishop and deacon kiss the altar (concelebrants bow profoundly during the kiss), all go to the foot of the sanctuary, and genuflect to the tabernacle if it is near the sanctuary; otherwise all bow profoundly.
- The recessional follows the same order as the procession at the beginning of Mass.

Thank you for attending to these details. Let us know if you have any questions.

Father Tom Margevičius  
Director, Office of Worship  
[margeviciust@archspm.org](mailto:margeviciust@archspm.org)  
651-291-0633