

ADOLYTING MADE SIMPLE



(A BRIEF OVERVIEW)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Are the altar candles lit? (Light the left one first.)
- Have you prayed together, thanking God for your amazing church?
- Are you chewing gum? (Spit it out!)
- Assign roles and line up!

1. **BIG CROSS:** Don't be nervous—it's really not that heavy.

You lead the army! Be sure to walk slow and confidently.

Start walking not when the music starts, but when the WORDS start.

When you get to the front of the altar, stop there and wait until you see the priests walk by, then go ahead and put the cross in its holder and walk to your seat.

2. **CANDLES:** You just walk right behind the big cross. No pressure.

3. **FLAGS:** You go right behind the candles.

Remember: You all cross when you get to the altar, so walk opposite of the side your flag will end up on.

4. **SMALL CROSS:** You go behind the choir, but in front of the black-robed people.

THE GOSPEL

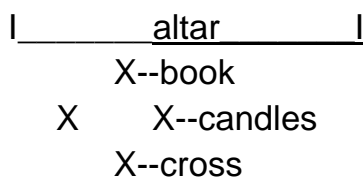
First things first: PAY ATTENTION in the service. Just because you aren't sitting with your family doesn't mean you aren't at church. Sing the hymns and say the prayers. Make the youth look good to the old folks. Cover your yawns. Stay awake. Follow along.

During the Gospel hymn, glance over at Jady or Debbie every now and then and they will give you the cue for when you should line up.

Remember → → → → → **CROSS BOOK CANDLES (CBC)**

- **BIG CROSS:** You take the big red Bible that sits on that little table. Hold it nice and high—it is the Bible, after all!
- **CANDLES:** As usual, no pressure.
- **SMALL CROSS:** You keep your role, but you lead the pack, so scoot your boot!

Once you're up there, the order changes. The book holder is closest to the altar, then the candles, then the small cross. Everyone is facing the altar because you are all so eager to hear the story! Here is a little illustration:



Once it's over and you're putting your stuff away, if the prayer before the sermon has started, just wait, bow your head, then walk to your seat. You know that. Way to go! You did it!

THE OFFERING.....*Cue scary music*

You guys, it's really not that bad!

The peace happens. Hug each other and the priests.

Then there may or may not be some announcements.

Even if everything is out of order because it's a weird service or things are out of order because of baptisms, when you hear these words...

“WALK NOW IN LOVE AS CHRIST LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, AN OFFERING AND SACRIFICE TO GOD”

... One of you immediately walks over to grab the plates and walks within the rails of the altar to hand them to the kind people waiting on you. The other one of you will take the stuff for communion and place it on the altar. Ask the priests if they need any additional help, then sit.

One of you will stand by the little table where you got the plates and wait there patiently, enjoying the sounds of our beautiful choir.

There will then be a pause and a really happy song will begin, usually *“Praise God from whom all blessings flow....”* As soon as it starts, walk within the rails to retrieve the plates full of money and hand it to the priest right behind you. Walk back to your seat because **YOU'RE DONE AND YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL. PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK!**

COMMUNION.....*Easy peasy lemon squeezy!*

When you notice the black-robed people are getting up to go for communion, you go with them. Be sure to step up so the priests can reach your hands with ease.

Two of you will stay; one person grabs the bread and the other gets the wine and a little cloth.

Stand there patiently; smile at people; make jokes with the priests when they come get more bread. They are hilarious people.

If you run out, don't panic because there is more on the altar, on the little table behind you, or back in the secret room.

When it's over, put your stuff on the little table and help pick up other stuff. Now you can sit. HIGH FIVE! YOU DID AWESOME!

Now why don't you say a little prayer thanking God that you get to receive communion and Jesus and you get to serve an amazing church that LOVES you?!

RECESSIONAL.....*It's coming to an end!*

As soon as the music starts, pop up, get your stuff, and get in position (unless you're a flag, in which case stay put and sing along).

- **BIG CROSS**: Go get the cross and stand in front of the altar. This is super important–FACE THE ALTAR! Once you see the candles and choir coming for you, make a little spin-a-roo and head out.
- **CANDLES**: Start walking on the second verse of the song and/or when the choir starts moving.
- **SMALL CROSS**: Don't go until you've seen the choir person on your side leave. Then when you get up to the front of the altar, wait for every last choir member to pair off and walk. Then you go in front of the black-robed people.

HIGH FIVE EACH OTHER BECAUSE
YOU'RE THE BEST ACOLYTE TEAM AND
YOU DID AWESOME. GOD IS SMILING
UPON YOU!

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!