

CRUCIFER

ACOLYTE

TORCH BEARER



C.A.T.S Training

I. ALL C.A.T.S

- a. Thank you for your participation and service at worship!
- b. Please be at church by 15 minutes before you are going to serve.
- c. Please wear clothing that covers your legs.
- d. Robes and cinctures (waist ropes) are in the Sacristy (the room to the right of the altar)
 - i. Instructions for tying the cincture (rope) are taped to the inside of the robe closet door.
 - ii. Hang the robes and cinctures back on the hanger when you are finished.
- e. Long lighters are available in the space behind and below the top of the pulpit and in the small table between the pastor and the acolyte's chairs.
- f. Be ready to serve as an Crucifer, Acolyte, or Torchbearer at the direction of the pastor.
- g. All C.A.T.s must be old enough to reach the candle with a candlelighter and old enough to sit still during a worship service.
- h. Take your time when entering or leaving the worship space.
- i. Assignment of duties based on people available
 - i. One C.A.T.: acolyte or possibly acolyte/cross bearer
 - ii. Two C.A.T.s: one acolyte and one crossbearer
 - iii. Three C.A.T.s: one acolyte/crossbearer and two torch bearers
 - iv. Four C.A.T.s: one acolyte, one crossbearer, and two torch bearers

2. Crucifer (cross bearer)

- a. Bring the processional cross to the Narthex (building entryway) and wait there until the service begins.
- b. Lead the worship participants into the worship service at the direction of the pastor.
- c. Look up at the cross and bow when you get to the altar.
- d. Place the cross in its stand and sit down in the chair nearest to the cross.
- e. Pick up the cross during the last hymn at the direction of the pastor, look up at the cross and bow, then walk out to the Narthex and greet worshipers.
- f. The cross is tall. Watch out for lights in the Narthex ceilings and the wall above the door to and from the worship area.

3. Acolyte

- a. Light the brass candle lighter/extinguisher on the wall to the left to light all the candles (except the big Paschal Candle) as soon as the first person enters for worship, then wait in the Narthex.

- b. Light the Paschal (Christ, the Lamb of God) Candle at funerals, baptisms, and on every Sunday during the Easter season.
 - c. Enter worship with the pastor, behind the cross and torch bearers (if present).
 - d. Sit in the chair next to the pastor whenever not doing anything else.
 - e. Give four offering plates from the credence table to the ushers at the beginning of the altar.
 - f. Collect the offering plates from the ushers when they bring them forward.
 - g. Give the yellow prayer request papers at the top of the offering plates to the pastor.
 - h. Place incense in the thurible (burner) and swing over the altar (3 times on the left side, 3 on the right, and 9 in the middle) then return it to its stand at services where incense is used (mostly Wednesdays).
 - i. Bring the communion ware from the credence table to the altar at the beginning of communion.
 - j. If you distribute the wine/grape juice
 - i. Grape juice is in the area inside the triangle (Sunday) and in the smaller cup (Wednesday)
 - ii. Say “The blood of Christ, shed for you.” as people receive the wine or grape juice.
 - k. Return the communion ware to the credence table at the end of communion.
 - l. Extinguish the candles during the last hymn with the candle lighter/extinguisher at the direction of the pastor, and then hang it back on the wall.
 - m. Go front of the altar with the pastor, look up at the cross, and bow, then turn and leave down the center aisle.
 - n. Greet people in the Narthex (entryway) as they leave.
4. Torch bearers
- a. Two people are needed to be torch bearers.
 - b. Be very careful when handling the torches as the candles and glass are not very stable.
 - c. Hold the torches straight up and down at all times.
 - d. Light one of the torches (the long candle sticks on each side of the altar), remove them from their stands (twist if they stick), and take them to the Narthex.
 - e. Enter the worship space at the direction of the pastor, walking next to each other behind the cross.
 - f. Look up at the cross and bow when you get to the altar.
 - g. Place your torch gently into its stand (twist it if it sticks).
 - h. Sit in the chairs designated by the pastor, probably against the wall on each sides of the altar.
 - i. Stand up, pick up your torch during the last hymn (twist if it sticks) at the direction of the pastor, stand next to each other, look up at the cross and bow, then turn toward each other and leave down the center aisle.
 - j. Greet people in the Narthex (entryway) as they leave.

