

Crucifer Instructions

The Crucifer leads the congregation by processing and recessing with the processional cross. The crucifer is normally a function performed by one person with that given role. It is permissible to have another worship leader perform the role of crucifer, as long as the roles of crucifer are not interfered with by people leading in other ways

1. When crucifer arrives:
 - a. Locate the processional cross.
 - b. Remove the cross from the stand and place it in the holder behind the main door of the sanctuary in the Narthex.
 - c. Check in with presiding and assisting ministers so they know you are present.
 - d. Get specific instructions related to the day's order.
 - e. Be present no later than 15 minutes prior to the service
 - f. Vest in a leader robe
2. At the beginning of the service
 - a. Don the cross and ready yourself to step into the lead of the procession.
 - b. Procession is to line up in the narthex.
 - c. The crucifer goes first in the processional and recessional.
 - d. The processional may take its place in the sanctuary as the service starts, or may remain in the narthex.
3. Processing
 - a. The crucifer holds the cross in an elevated and dignified manner.
 - b. The crucifer keeps his/her eyes forward.
 - c. When the procession/recession begins, the crucifer sets the pace, moving in a dignified and deliberate way.
 - d. The crucifer enters the "chancel," climbing the steps until s/he is in front of the altar, on the chancel-level floor, stopping on the brass-edged rectangle.
 - e. The crucifer, then, turns to face the congregation. S/he remains in position until the presiding minister indicates it is time to the cross in its stand.
4. Placing the cross
 - a. At the designated time, the cross is placed in its stand, so that it faces the congregation.
 - i. The crucifer watches the presiding minister for a nod to do so. This should normally happen as the last verse of the processional music is starting.
 - b. The crucifer steps back and honors the cross by pausing five to ten seconds facing the cross.
 - c. The crucifer takes his/her designated seat.
5. Gospel: the crucifer does not participate in the gospel procession
6. Recessional
 - a. The crucifer goes to the cross and honors it at the designated time
 - i. Perhaps: as the music for the recessional hymn begins.
 - ii. Perhaps prior to a blessing
 - iii. Ask the presiding minister which it is to be.
 - b. After honoring the cross for five to ten seconds, the crucifer removes the cross and makes his/her way to the center aisle, standing between the front two rows of pews/chairs on the main floor.
 - i. The recession forms behind him/her

- c. The presiding minister may invite the congregation to stand and face the cross
- d. At the designated time, the crucifer leads the recessional toward the back of the church.
- e. At the back of the church, the crucifer stops at the door, turns and faces the congregation, staying inside the sanctuary.
- f. After the final words of the service are spoken (usually a dismissal) the crucifer lowers the cross and leaves the sanctuary.