

YOUTH ALTAR SERVER CONCLUDING RITE

ABBREVIATIONS

PASTOR = Fr. Eugene Radosevich, Pastor of St. Luke, Eureka, IL
GIRM = General Instruction of the Roman Missal

I. CONCLUDING RITE

GIRM #90: “To the Concluding Rites belong the following: brief announcements... the Priest’s Greeting and Blessing...the Dismissal of the people by the Deacon or the Priest, so that each may go back to doing good works, praising and blessing God; the kissing of the altar by the Priest and the Deacon, followed by a profound bow to the altar by the Priest, the Deacon, and the other ministers”

(OPTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT): During the Concluding Rites, announcements may be made (if necessary) after the Prayer after Communion.

GREETING AND BLESSING: The celebrant then blesses the people assembled. Sometimes, the blessing is very simple. On special days, the blessing may be more extensive. In every case, the blessing is always trinitarian: "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." It is in the triune God and in the sign of the cross that we find our blessing.

PASTOR: When the priest has finished with the final blessing, immediately the adult server places the Sacramentary (i.e., please leave the book opened) back onto the altar. Then the adult server goes immediately to get the Processional Cross while the youth servers get the Processional Candles and stand on either side of the Processional Cross in the nave of the church at the foot of the altar facing the tabernacle.

DISMISSAL: After the blessing, the deacon dismisses the people. In fact, the dismissal gives the liturgy its name. The word "Mass" comes from the Latin word, "Missa." At one time, the people were dismissed with the words "Ite, missa est" (literally meaning "Go, she—meaning you, the Church—has been sent").

PASTOR: The servers wait while the priest and deacon kiss the altar, and then join them in the nave of the church facing the tabernacle. At a time when the priest decided to leave, the priest will lead the other ministers in a genuflection to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in the Tabernacle. The servers who are carrying the processional cross and candles only make a simple bow (i. e, of the head) and DO NOT GENUFLECT. If there are other servers like a thurifer and a boat bearer who are carrying the censer and boat, make a simple bow as well. Any other servers or ministers, who are not carrying any liturgical items, keeping their hands folded, genuflect in unison with the priest celebrant. In unison everyone turns around, and then processes down the center aisle, out the doors of the nave into the vestibule of the church, then down the hall to the sacristy.

PASTOR: When the final hymn and any postludes have been completed by the choir, the adult server and one of the youth servers should go and extinguish the candles in a similar manner as they were lit. Meanwhile the other youth server can begin carrying one or two items at a time from the credence table back to the sacristy. When the youth server approaches the sanctuary their hands should be folded. At the top of the ramp the youth server genuflects, picks up an item(s) from the credence table, turns towards the tabernacle, genuflects to Jesus in the Tabernacle, walks down the ramp, and then returns to the sacristy. Please leave the hand sanitizer bottle on the credence table along with the bowl and the towel, but make sure that the bowl has been emptied first. All other items on the credence table should be placed on the sacristy counter. When everything is done then the servers may carefully hang up their albs and cinctures in their closet.