

Crucifer Instructions

On behalf of the Advent Board of Elders, we graciously thank you for your service to our congregation by serving as a crucifer. The word crucifer comes from the Latin crucis meaning Cross and ferre meaning to bear. A crucifer is one who bears or carries the most important Christian symbol of our faith – the Crucifix: Jesus on the cross. The congregation will fix their eyes on the crucifix as you walk - so walk proudly and with reverence.

The following are instructions to help you prepare for your duties. If at any time you have any questions about your role please seek out the Elder on duty for the service.

- Please arrive to the church 15 minutes prior to the service. In the vestry, select a white Alb (white robe with hood) that is appropriate for your height and one that is not too long. The robe should be rest about an inch or so above your ankle. Remember that you will be going up the steps at the altar and do not want to trip on the bottom of the robe.
- Select a rope cincture for around your waist and follow the instructions in the vestry on how to tie a rope cincture or ask the Elder on duty to assist you.
- Proceed to the narthex and remove the Crucifix from the holder. The cross itself is very heavy at the top so be sure to space out your hands on the pole accordingly to ensure proper balance.
- Before the opening hymn step forward past the bulk head of the doorway and elevate the cross so that the congregation can see it. When the congregation begins to sing the processional hymn, walk at a steady, dignified pace. Not too fast.
- When you arrive at the altar area proceed up the first two steps and face the congregation. Do not bow. The Crucifer never bows. During the last verse or when the presiding pastor gives you the indication, carry the crucifix back to its stand in front of the banner. The crucifix stand is a tight fit. You may need to wiggle or twist the pole a little for the crucifix to properly seat in the stand. Be sure that the cross is facing the congregation and take a seat on the pew next to the acolyte.
- At the last hymn, look for a signal from the presiding pastor and pick up the crucifix . You may need to place your foot on the base in order to remove the pole from the base, wiggling and slightly twisting as you remove it. Exit the altar area and proceed down the main aisle in the nave in the same way you entered – reverently and with a dignified pace. When you come to the end of the aisle in front of the bulkhead, turn and face the congregation until the hymn ends. While the recessional bells are chiming, you may bring the crucifix to the floor, turn, and bring the crucifix into the narthex returning it to its holder.
- Return the Alb to the Vestry and neatly hang the Alb so that it is ready for the next crucifer to wear.