

School for Deacons Thurifer Instructions

General Guidelines:

1. The ring at the top of the Thurible is its weakest part. **NEVER** swing the Thurible or carry it extensively holding only the ring. To carry and swing the Thurible at full chain, grasp all the chains together directly under the top disk.
2. Each service, before using the Thurible, inspect it carefully. The base must be firmly attached to the bowl, and the chains must be firmly attached to the bowl, the disk, the cover, and the lifting ring. Parts do occasionally loosen and fly off!
3. When there is lighted charcoal in the bowl, the cover must **ALWAYS** be raised, except when you are using the Thurible for censuring. The burning charcoal can damage the fine metal if the cover is closed for extensive periods of time (when the Thurible is left unattended).

On the day of the service, arrive 45 minutes before the service is to begin and vest in an alb.

Get Thurible and Thurifer supplies (plastic box) from the Sacristy cabinet. Make sure there is a spoon and adequate incense in the boat. **INSPECT THE THURIBLE** (see above). Place extra pieces of charcoal (and a lighter!) in a convenient place near the chapel door, where it can be easily retrieved during the service.

Fifteen minutes before the service, light the charcoal – one, one and a half, or two pieces in the bowl.

Five minutes before the service, the altar party gathers outside the Sacristy. The Presider leads a pre-service prayer or invites the altar party to silence.

The Thurifer hands the Boat and offers the Thurible, with its cover up, to the Presider, who adds incense to the Thurible.

The procession can be either silent or accompanied by instrumental music.

The Thurifer, carrying the Boat and gently swinging the Thurible at full chain, leads the procession, moving through the chapel and out the door to the Sacristy porch. Place the Thurible on its hook and the Boat underneath. (Thurifer will not actually need to carry the boat for the rest of the service.) Return to the chapel and sit in assigned seat near Sacristy door.

During the Psalm, exit the chapel to prepare the Thurible as needed.

As the lector concludes the second reading, the Thurifer adds one scoop incense to the Thurible and moves to a place near the chapel door, outside the building.

When there is a Gospel Procession:

The Thurifer enters swinging the Thurible gently at full chain, and waits while the Deacon, carrying the Gospel Book, follows the Bookholder (Crucifer or Student Deacon) and Torches into the aisle; the Thurifer follows the Deacon and stops just behind and to the left of the Deacon.

When there is NO Gospel Procession:

The Deacon, carrying the Gospel Book, moves to the ambo. During the last stanza of the sequence hymn or the Gospel Acclamation, the Thurifer enters, swinging the Thurible gently at full chain, and moves to stand near the ambo.

The Thurifer offers the Thurible to the Deacon, who censes the Gospel Book.

The Deacon returns the Thurible to the Thurifer who immediately carries it, swinging gently at full chain, outside onto the Sacristy porch. Place the Thurible on its hook and add fresh charcoal if necessary, one half or one piece. Return to sit at place in chapel.

During the exchange of peace, exit the chapel to prepare the Thurible as needed. Please keep the Thurible outside and the door open only a crack until just before the Thurible is carried in.

The offering is received and carried to the Altar, along with the oblations. The table is prepared. The (Student) Deacon signals the Presider when the altar is ready.

As the Deacon fills the Chalice, the Thurifer places incense in the Thurible and prepares to enter. As the Presider approaches the Altar, the Thurifer carries the Thurible, swinging gently full chain, to the Presider and offers it to him/her.

The Thurifer moves away from the Altar while the Presider censes the oblations and altar.

The Presider then gives the Thurible back to the Thurifer, who censes the sanctuary party and people. Altar Party: two swings, short chain, for Presider, Deacon, and LLA. People: Two swings, full chain, in each direction, south, then north. If the congregation is seated “audience style”, two swings, full chain, to left and right.

Carry the Thurible, swinging gently full chain, to the Sacristy porch. Place Thurible on its hook. Return to stand inside chapel door and wait for an opportunity to move unobtrusively to assigned place.

After the service, remove and store vestments. Then clean the Thurible, depositing the contents of the bowl into the special waste receptacle in the Sacristy bathroom.

Return the Thurible to its storage hook. Return all thurifer supplies to the plastic storage box. Replace the storage box in the SFD Sacristy cupboard.