

ACOLYTE ROLES

- **Crucifer** – carry the procession cross.
- **Taper** – carry a candle in the various processions.
- **Bells** – ring the sanctus bells.
- **Server** – assist with preparing the altar for communion, and assist with ablutions after communion.
- **Plates** – Take offertory plates to the ushers during the offertory, and receive the plates from the ushers after the offertory.
- **Candles** – light the candles on and near the altar before the service; extinguish the candles after the service.



More Acolyte Roles

The following roles occasionally may be used in a service:

- **Banner** – carry the parish banner or another banner in the procession.
- **Thurifer** – carry the thurible or incense boat and assist when incense is required in a service.



We worship at St. John's Episcopal Church. There are several saints named "John" – who is our namesake?

- *John the Baptist*
- *John Chrysostom*
- *John the Divine*
- *John the Evangelist*
- *John of the Cross*

BONUS – Who is depicted in the stained glass window on the chapel?

DOUBLE BONUS – Why is St. John's called one of the "Gospel Churches" of Austin?



LIGHTING CANDLES

Light the candles in the following order:

1. Paschal Candle (if present)
2. Epistle side Altar Candle and Taper
3. Gospel side Altar Candle and Taper
4. Seven Epistle side office light candles
5. Seven Gospel side office light candles
6. Advent wreath candles (if present)

Remember to reverence the altar or the tabernacle whenever you cross in front of it.



LIGHTING CANDLES



Match the day or season with the liturgical color:

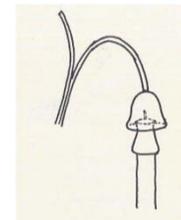
Day or Season	Color
Advent	Green
Christmas	White
Epiphany (day)	Red
Epiphany (season)	Blue
Lent	Purple
Palm Sunday	Black
Good Friday	
Easter	
Day of Pentecost	
"Ordinary Time"	



EXTINGUISHING CANDLES

At the start of the recessional hymn:

1. Extinguish the Gospel side altar candle.
2. Extinguish the Epistle side altar candle.



Extinguish the tapers after the dismissal.

After the dismissal:

3. Extinguish the seven Gospel side office light candles.
4. Extinguish the seven Epistle side office light candles.
5. Extinguish the Advent wreath candles (if present).
6. Extinguish the Paschal candle (if present).



EXTINGUISHING CANDLES



The symbols on our communion rail kneelers represent some of the saints. Match the symbol with the saint:



- St. John
- St. Peter
- St. James the Greater
- St. Simon
- St. Andrew
- St. Paul



CRUCIFER

Follow the Verger.

Exception: during the processional to start the service, the verger will stop at the communion rail gate. The Crucifer should continue on into the sanctuary and stop just in front of the altar.

Be sure to always hold the cross straight up and facing forward!

Do not bow when carrying the cross.



What was the original purpose of the virge -- the staff that the Verger carries during processions?



TAPERS

As far as possible, the two taper acolytes should do things at the same time and the same speed.

- Pick up your candles at the same time.
- Enter/exit the communion rail gate at the same time.
- Walk side by side in processions.

Hold candles so the tops are at the same height. This usually means that the taller acolyte may have to hold his/her candle a bit lower than usual.

Hold the candle upright---don't lean into the candle flame!
Do not bow when carrying a candle.



PLATES

Here are the steps for the Plates Acolyte:

1. Go to the credence table and take the four offertory plates from the lower shelf.
2. With the Server Acolyte, go to the communion rail gates. Wait for the ushers to give the bread and wine to the server acolyte.
3. Give the offertory plates to the ushers. Bow to the ushers when giving them the plates.
4. Move to the corner of the sanctuary near the communion rail and wait for the cue to proceed. (Music change, ushers start to come forward, or prompt from Verger.)
5. Move to the gate in the communion rail and accept the plates from the ushers. Bow to the ushers when receiving the plates.
6. Move to the side of the altar and give the plates to the adult lay server. Bow to the lay server when giving him/her the plates.
7. Return to your seat for Prayer of Consecration.



What are these things and how/why do we use them?



SERVER - PREPARING THE ALTAR (1)

Here are the steps for the Server Acolyte:

1. Receive the Bread Box and Wine Cruet from the Ushers. Take them to the Credence Table and remove the stoppers and lids.
2. Take the bread box and empty wine flagon to the altar.
3. The Preparer (Priest, Deacon, or Seminarian) will take the flagon and place it on the altar. He/she will take the bread box, count out and place wafers on the paten, and return the bread box to you.
4. Return to the credence table with bread box.
5. Take wine and water cruets to altar. The wine cruet should be in your right hand, and the water cruet in your left hand.
6. Give the wine cruet to the preparer; handle first. Transfer the water cruet to your right hand. The preparer will return the wine cruet to your left hand.



SERVER - PREPARING THE ALTAR (2)

7. Give the water cruet to Preparer; handle first. Transfer the used wine cruet to your right hand. The preparer will return the water cruet to your left hand.
8. Return the cruets to the credence table.
9. Place the Lavabo towel over your left wrist and the Lavabo Bowl in your left hand. Pick up the water cruet in your right hand. Take the Lavabo Bowl, towel, and water cruet to the Altar.
10. As soon as the Celebrant is ready, pour a small amount of water on his/her fingers to symbolically wash his/her hands. Repeat for other priests (if any) in the altar party.
11. Return all materials to the credence table.
12. Return to your seat for Prayer of Consecration.

Remember to bow to the Preparer whenever you give or receive an element.



PRIEST - PREPARING THE ALTAR (1)

Here are the steps for the Priest/Deacon/Seminarian when preparing the altar:

1. During the Peace, the vergers will remove the Bible from the altar and place the chalice stack and altar book on the altar.
2. While the acolyte is receiving elements from the ushers, remove the burse and veil and open up the chalice stack.
3. The small paten with gluten free wafers should already be on the altar near the chalice stack. Verify that the required number of gluten free wafers are available. (The vergers can identify who requires gluten free wafers.)
4. Receive the bread box and empty wine flagon from the acolyte. Set the flagon aside.
5. Check the count slip in the bread box and count out the necessary number of wafers into the paten. Return the bread box to the acolyte.
 - *If there is no count slip in the bread box, ask the Verger for the count or estimate the count yourself.*
 - *You may wish to use consecrated wafers from the tabernacle for some of the bread to be distributed.*

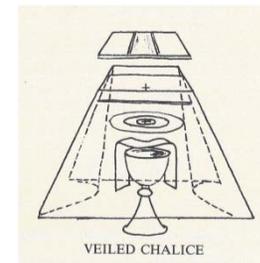
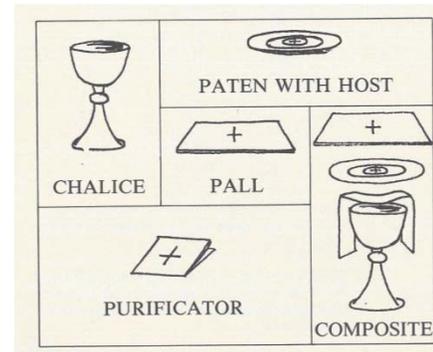


PRIEST - PREPARING THE ALTAR (2)

6. Receive the wine cruet from the acolyte and pour wine into the chalice and flagon. Return the wine cruet to the acolyte.
 - *You may wish to use consecrated wine from the Tabernacle for some of the wine to be distributed.*
7. Receive the water cruet from the acolyte and pour a small amount of water into the chalice and flagon. Return the water cruet to the acolyte.
8. The acolyte will bring the Lavabo Bowl, towel, and a water cruet to the Altar. As soon as you are ready, he/she will pour a small amount of water over your fingers into the bowl to symbolically wash your hands. At your preference, this may happen immediately after preparing the chalice and flagon, or it may occur after the Alms have been received and presented.



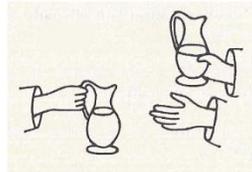
CHALICE STACK





PREPARING THE ALTAR

Handling Cruets



Lavabo



SANCTUS BELLS

Ring the sanctus bells at the following times:

- The Sanctus itself ("Holy Holy Holy" etc.) -- ring the bells three times -- once for each sung or said "Holy."
- Immediately after the elevation of the bread ("This is my Body....do this for the remembrance of Me,") -- ring the bells one time.
- Immediately after the elevation of the chalice ("This is my Blood...do this for the remembrance of Me,") -- ring the bells one time.
- At the *Great Amen* at the end of the Prayer of Consecration -- ring the bells three times. (even if "Amen" is only said or sung once)

Note – this is the customary (but somewhat nontraditional) sequence for ringing the bells at St. John's. Other parishes may have different sequences.

Why do we ring bells during the service?



DURING COMMUNION

Acolytes should go to the end of the communion rail that is closest to the acolyte seats and receive communion when the choir receives.

After receiving communion, the server acolyte should stand near the altar and be ready to respond to requests from the Priests, Verger, or a Lay Server.

Other acolytes may return to their seats after receiving communion.



SERVER - ABLUTIONS

After the congregation has received communion, the server acolyte should go to the credence table, remove the stopper from the water cruet, and bring it forward to the altar. Give the water cruet to the person performing ablutions and remain near the altar.

As items are cleaned, the person performing ablutions will give them to the Acolyte or place them on the corner of the altar. All items should be returned to the credence table.