

O'Brien, William A.  
How to serve...  
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# HOW TO SERVE LOW MASS



REV. WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN



# HOW TO SERVE LOW MASS

A Simple Text-Book of Ceremonies for Altar Boys, with Diagrams Showing the Movements and Positions of the Server and Containing a Pictured Explanation of the Vestments, Altar and Sanctuary Appointments, Together with an Interlinear Phonetic Arrangement of the Latin Prayers.

*By*

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Deacon

## A WORD TO THE BOY

**I**T IS a great privilege for a boy to be allowed to serve at the altar of the Most High God. The altar boy is indeed one of the pages at the Court of the King of Kings. How you should appreciate this high honor therefore by showing the greatest reverence in the sanctuary, by paying exact attention during the sacred services and by learning your part as perfectly as possible! It was in order to help you to do so, that this little book was prepared.

The pictures of the sacristy, sanctuary, the sacred vessels and vestments are shown so that you will know the right name and place for everything used at the altar.

The main part of the book teaches you the Latin and directs you in your movements and positions when serving low Mass. It is divided into five lessons so that you can master a little at a time and master it well.

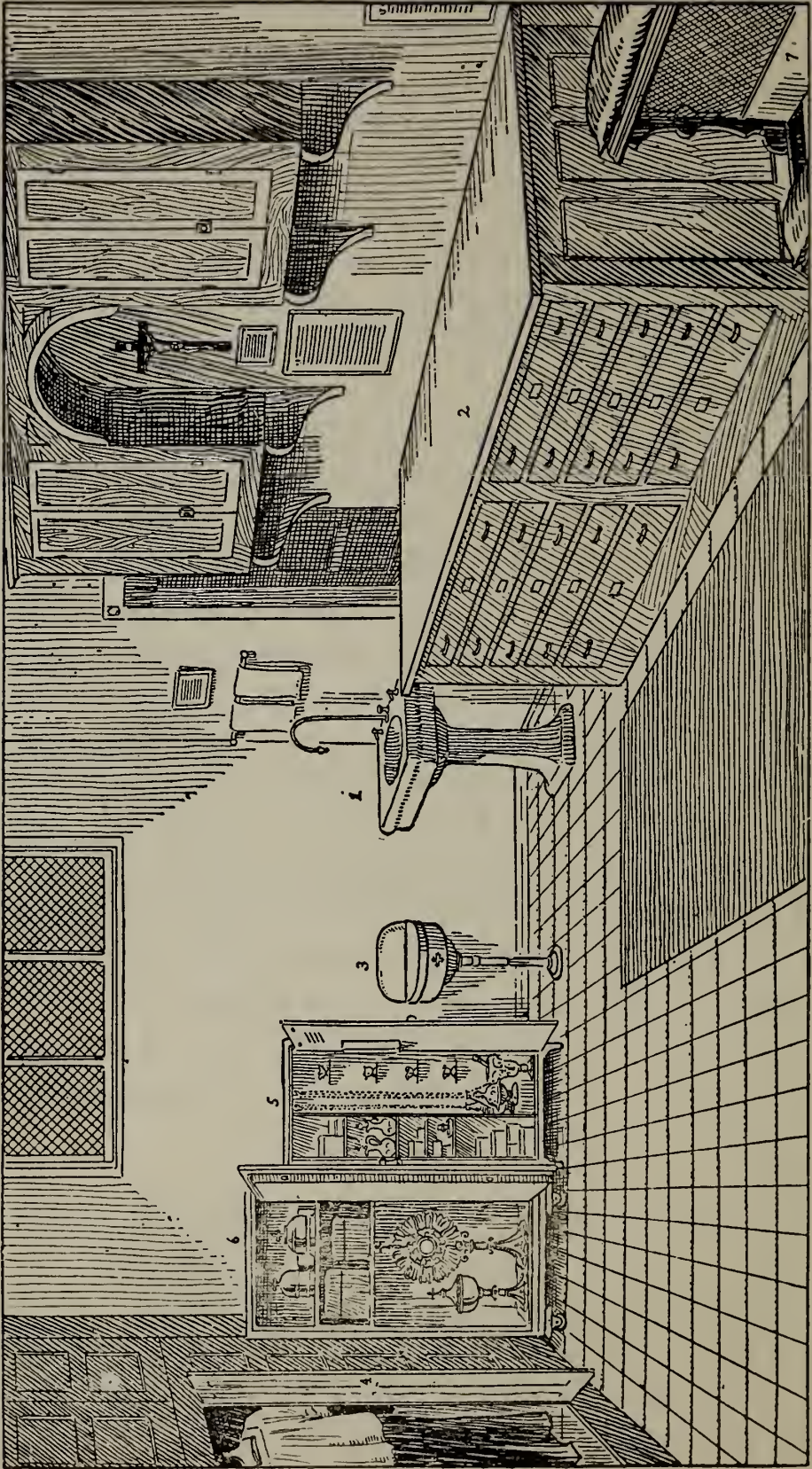
The Latin is made easy for you to pronounce because the English sound of each Latin word is placed directly above it in the form of simple English words; for example, your first response will be written:

Odd day'um kwee lay-tee'fee-cot | you-ven-too'tem  
Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem  
may'ahm.  
meam.

This little mark ' above a syllable means that the accent falls on that syllable. The lines between words indicate pauses.

One last word—The mastery of this little book, combined with your own faithfulness, cleanliness and good manners, will make you a most desirable altar boy.

—*The Author.*



### THE SACRISTY

*This picture shows how a Sacristy is usually arranged and what it contains. The names for the different pieces of furniture are given in a list on the next page, the numbers agreeing with those in the picture.*

## THE SACRISTY

The sacristy is the place where the priests prepare and vest for Mass. Become familiar with your sacristy so that you will know just where everything belongs, as each thing has its proper place. You should arrive here a few minutes before Mass. Immediately put on your cassock and surplice, place the cruets of wine and water, the finger bowl and towel on the credence table and light the two lowest candles, one on each side of the tabernacle beginning with the one on the Epistle side. While in the sacristy always observe silence and be ever ready to give any assistance requested.

### LIST OF THINGS IN SACRISTY

1. The *Lavabo*, or Lavatory, and towel rack, where the priest washes his hands before beginning to vest for Mass.
2. The Vesting Table. Here the vestments are laid out and arranged in order as the priest puts them on. Frequently this vesting table also has drawers and small closets in which Vestments, linens, missals, etc., are stored. A crucifix is generally at the head. There is also a card hung or standing on it containing prayers which the priest says while vesting, or certain other prayers which he is reminded to say at Mass for the intention of the Bishop, etc.
3. The *Sacrarium*. This is a basin used to wash and clean the chalice, ciborium or other sacred vessels, and also the small linens used in direct connection with the sacred vessels or certain ceremonies. Here it is also that the priest washes his hands after certain ceremonies. It has a drain pipe which connects with the

ground, so that such water may flow into the earth. Needless to say, altar boys may not touch the sacrarium or any of the sacred vessels on account of the reverence due to these things.

4. Cabinets and closets. These are used to hang vestments of all kinds. Sometimes they also contain drawers in which the vestments are laid flat and in which large linen vestments such as the albs are kept.
5. A storage cabinet, usually of steel, in which such articles as the censer, incense boat, holy water pot (also called aspersorium), and supplies such as incense, tapers, etc., are kept.
6. A safe made of steel for the safekeeping of sacred vessels such as the chalice, the ostensorium (sometimes called monstrance), the church record books and other valuable matter.
7. A kneeling bench (also called Prie-Dieu). Generally used by the priest to say the prayers in preparation for Mass or in thanksgiving after Mass.

### *Manner of Lighting and Extinguishing Candles*

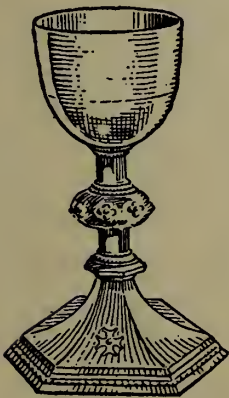
When lighting the two candles for the usual low Mass, always light the one nearest the tabernacle on the Epistle side first. If, on other occasions, more than two candles are to be lighted then light them in order toward the end. Then go to the Gospel side and light the one nearest the tabernacle on that side and light them in order toward the end of that side. When extinguishing them, the order is reversed; beginning at the farther end of the Gospel side and working in to the one nearest the tabernacle, then on the Epistle side from



the end to the one nearest the tabernacle, so that the first one lighted is the last one extinguished.

## THE CHALICE AND HOW IT IS COVERED

Before vesting, the priest first places the chalice upon the vestment case, spreads a narrow folded piece of linen, called the purificator, over the top of the chalice. Then he puts on top of that a gold plate called the paten, bearing the host to be consecrated at Mass. Over this he sets a linen-covered card called the pall. Next he covers all with the chalice veil. Finally he puts the burse containing a folded linen cloth named the corporal upon the covered chalice. Now see if you can name everything necessary in dressing the chalice for Mass.



*The Chalice*



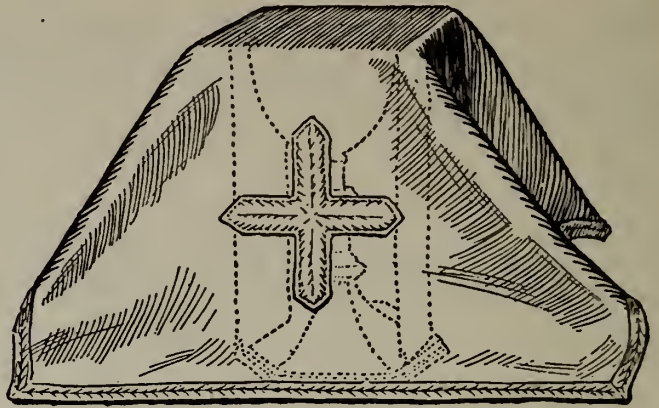
*Chalice and Purificator*



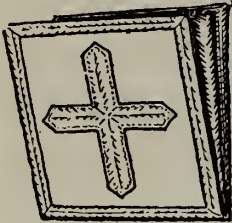
*Chalice, Purificator and Paten with host*



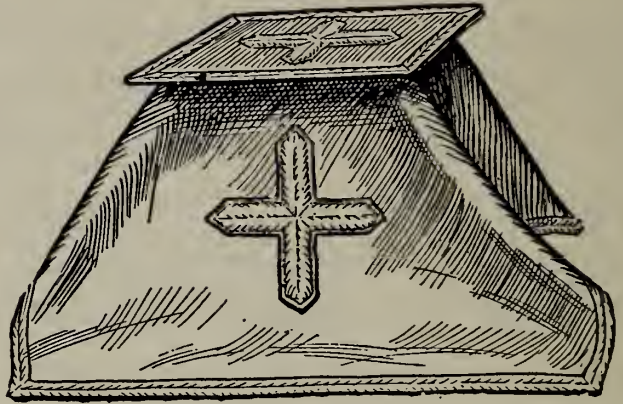
*Chalice, Purificator, Paten and Pall*



*All now covered by Chalice Veil—note the different parts under the Veil*



*The Burse and the Corporal*



*The Chalice completely covered*

## HOW THE PRIEST VESTS TO SAY MASS

Learn the name of each vestment from the pictures below. Assist the priest to vest. After he has put on the alb, hand him the cincture with the tassels at the right. Then see that the alb hangs evenly all around. When the priest has put on the chasuble, raise the back of it so that he may tie the ribbons.

Study the following pictures well and you will learn the names of the vestments and how they are put on.



*Priest in Amice*



*Priest in Alb*



*Priest adjusting the Cincture*



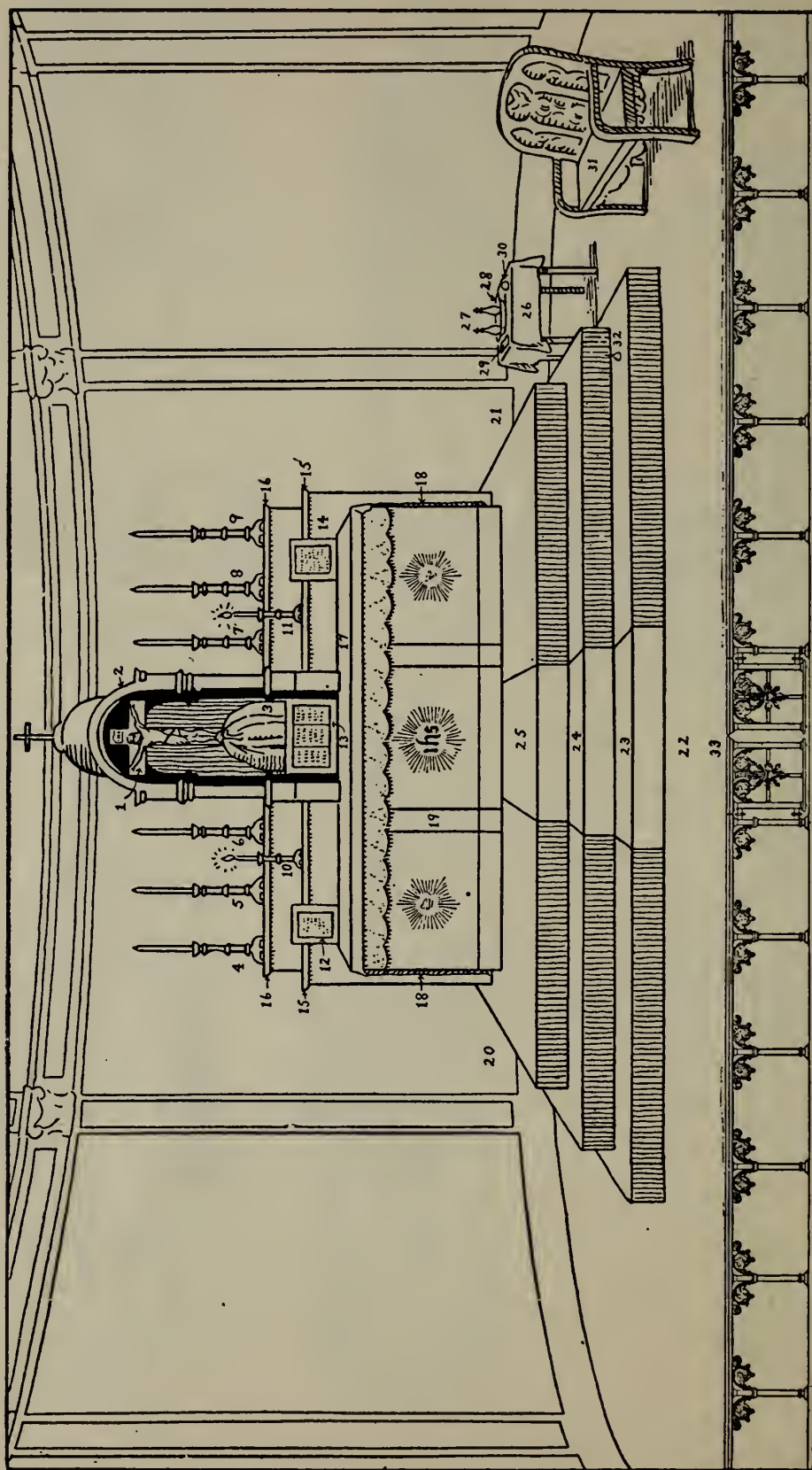
*Priest putting Maniple on left arm*



*Priest with the Stole*



*Priest in Chasuble is now completely Vested*



THE SANCTUARY

The different articles shown in this picture of the Sanctuary are numbered to agree with the numbers of their names in the following list.

Now that you know the names of the sacred vestments and vessels used at Mass, we are prepared to go to the place where Mass is offered up and there learn all about the sanctuary.

## THE SANCTUARY

Observe well the picture of the sanctuary. It is here the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered up. This picture shows you everything that is necessary for Mass, and teaches you the proper name of the furniture of the sanctuary.

### FURNITURE AND ARTICLES ON ALTAR AND IN SANCTUARY

1. Crucifix.
2. Canopy or Throne of the Altar.
3. Tabernacle covered by veil (wherever used the veil is of the color of the day or white).
- 4-9. Large Candlesticks (are lighted only for High Mass and Benediction).
- 10, 11. Small Candlesticks (are lighted only for Low Mass).
- 12, 13, 14. Altar Cards (the larger is in the center, containing prayers which the priest reads at the Offertory and Canon. The smaller one on the Epistle side has the prayers read by the priest when washing his hands after the Offertory. The other smaller one on the Gospel side has the Gospel of St. John, which is most frequently read at the end of Mass.).
15. First Gradine or Candlebench for the smaller Candlestick.
16. Second Gradine or Candlebench for the larger Candlestick.

17. Mensa or Altar Table.
18. Altar Table Coverings (one wax and three linen cloths cover the altar table. The fourth or top one of linen frequently edged with lace hangs down over the side of the altar to the floor).
19. Antependium or Frontal (wherever customary a cloth of the color of the day hangs down in front of the altar).
20. Gospel Side of the Altar.
21. Epistle Side of the Altar.
22. Sanctuary Floor.
23. First Altar Step.
24. Second Altar Step.
25. Predella or Altar Platform (sometimes called the Footpace).
26. Credence Table.
27. Water and Wine Cruets.
28. Finger Basin.
29. Towel.
30. Communion Paten.
31. Sedilia or Priests' Bench.
32. Bell.
33. Communion Rail.

### *THE PROPER POSTURES DURING MASS*

The following pictures show the altar boy how to conduct himself at various times, when kneeling, bowing and genuflecting. These pictures also show the proper way to hold the hands, when not occupied with anything else. When kneeling, be sure your shoes are concealed by cassock.



GENUFLECTING

*Body and head erect. Right knee touching floor, in line with left ankle.*



KNEELING

*Body and head erect. Hands before breast, with palms joined.*



SIMPLE BOW

*Body and shoulders erect, head slightly bent forward.*



PROFOUND BOW

*Body erect. Head and shoulders bent forward as shown.*

# LESSON I

## *From the Beginning of Mass to the Introit*

When the priest gives the signal, bow with him to the crucifix and walk before him to the altar with your hands joined palm to palm on your breast. If there is a holy water font at the door, dip the fingers of your right hand in it and touch the tips of the priest's outstretched fingers and then bless yourself. If there is a bell at the sacristy door, ring it to warn the people of the entrance of the priest. On arriving at the altar, stand a little to the right of the priest, take his biretta by the nearest peak, genuflect with him, place the biretta on the

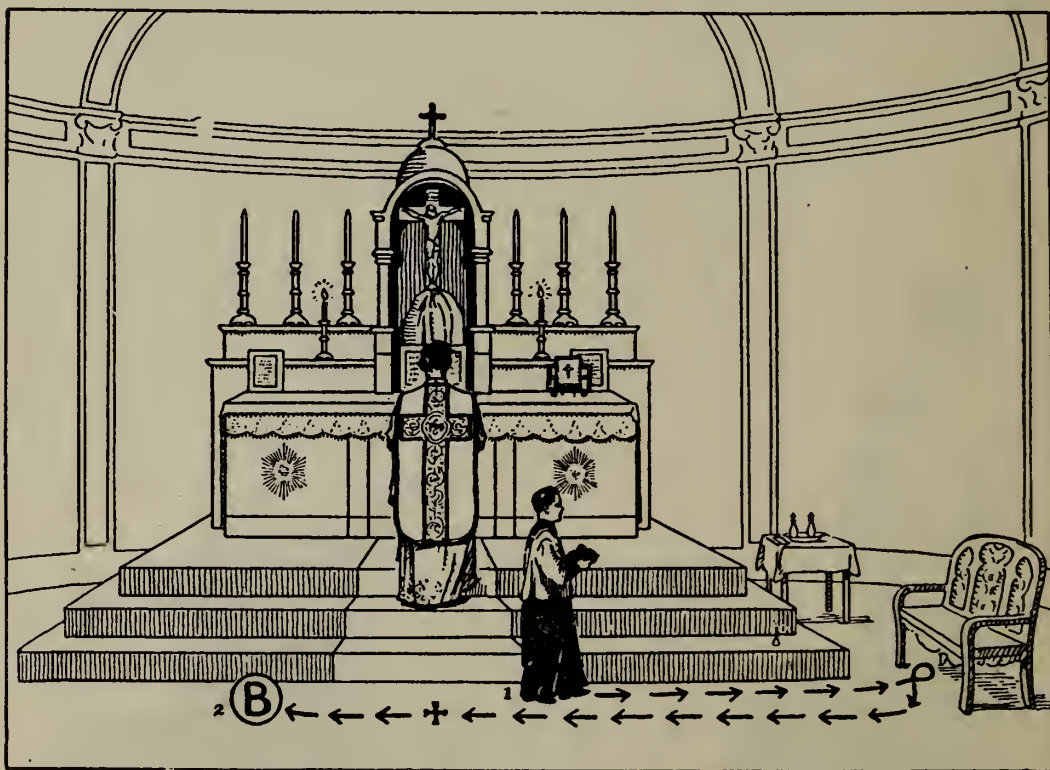


DIAGRAM NO. 1

*Position 1 shows where you should be when you arrive at the Altar. The arrows show the boy putting the biretta in its place; † means you genuflect when passing the center of the Altar. Position 2 shows the boy waiting for the Priest to descend.*



sedilia, come back to the center of the altar steps, genuflect and move about two feet to the Gospel side. Remain standing (or kneel at once on the floor where customary) until the priest descends to begin Mass.

Then kneel on the floor, with head erect and hands joined, palm to palm, and make the sign of the cross with the priest.

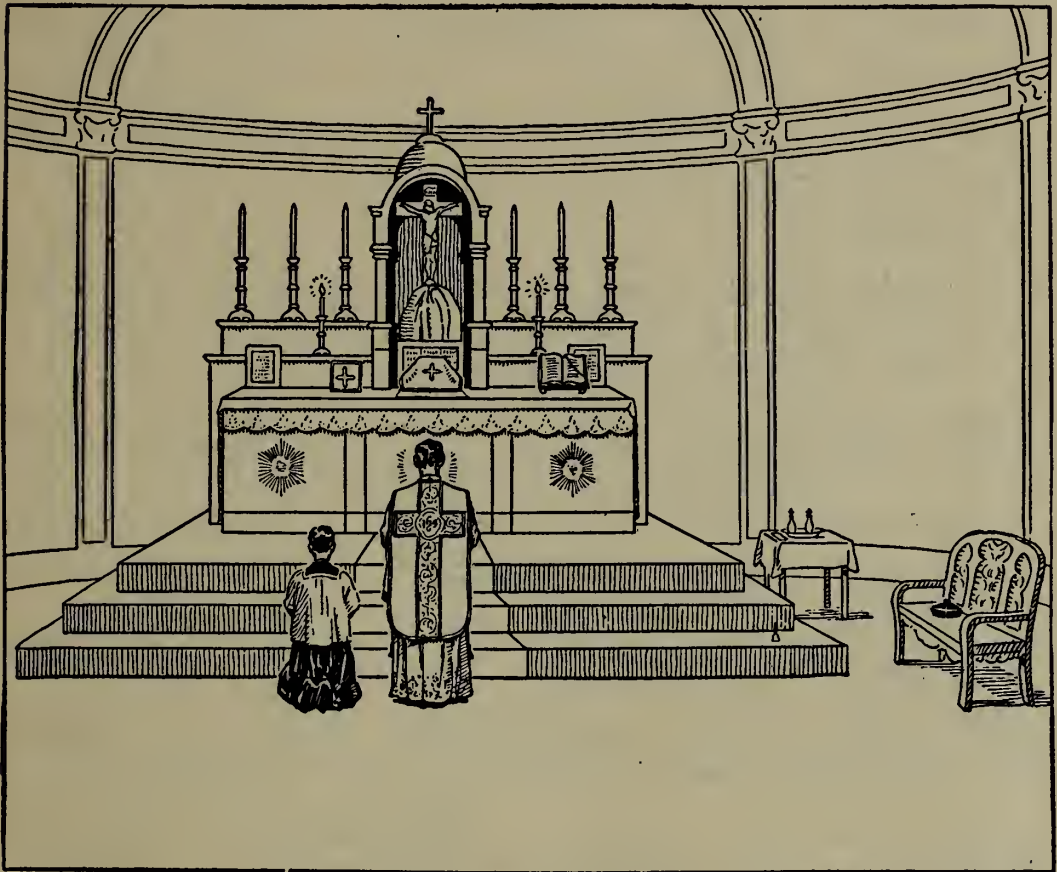


DIAGRAM No. 2

*This shows your position when beginning the prayers.*

## **THE PRAYERS AT THE FOOT OF THE ALTAR**

*P. Introibo ad altare Dei.*

Odd day'oom kwee lay-tee'fee-cot | you-ven-too'tem

**S. Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem**  
may'ahm.  
meam.

\* \* \* \* \*

[NOTE: For a Mass said in black vestments (a Mass for the Dead), skip from here to the next line of stars.]

P. *Judica me, Deus, et discerne causam meam de gente non sancta: ab homine iniquo et doloso erue me.*

Kwee'ah too ez day'oose | for-tee-too'doe may'ah |

S. *Quia tu es, Deus, fortitudo mea, kwah'ray may ray-poo-les'tee | ett kwah'ray quare me repulisti, et quare triss'tiss in-chay'doe | doom ah-flee'jit may tristis incedo, dum affligit me in-ee-mee'coose?*

*inimicus?*

P. *Emitte lucem tuam et veritatem tuam; ipsa me deduxerunt et adduxerunt in montem sanctum tuum, et in tabernacula tua.*

Ett in-tro-ee'boe odd ahl-tah'ray day'ee | odd

S. *Et introibo ad altare Dei; ad day'oom kwee lay-tee'fee-cot | you-ven-too'tem Deum qui laetificat juventutem may'ahm. meam.*

P. *Confitebor tibi in cithara, Deus, Deus meus; quare tristis es, anima mea, et quare conturbas me?*

Spay'rah in day'oh | kwoe'nee-ahm ahd'hook

S. *Spera in Deo, quoniam adhuc con-fee-tay'bor ill'lee | sah-loo-tah'ray vul'toose confitebor illi; salutare vultus may'ee | ett day'oose may'oose. mei, et Deus meus.*

Here bow your head with the priest as he says:

P. *Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.*

Kneel erect at once and answer:

See'coot err'rot in prin-chee'pee-oh | ett noonk  
**S. Sicut erat in principio et nunc,**  
 ett sem'pair | ett in say'coo-lah say-coo-loh'room.  
**et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.**  
 Ah-men'.  
 Amen.

*P. Introibo ad altare Dei.*

Odd day'oom kwee lay-tee'fee-cot | you-ven-too'tem  
**S. Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem**  
 may'ahm.  
 meam.

\* \* \* \* \*

Make the sign of the cross with the priest  
 as he says:

*P. Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.*

Kwee fay'chit chay'loom ett ter'rahm.

**S. Qui fecit coelum et terram.**

Remain kneeling erect while the priest  
 bows low and says the Confiteor.

*P. Confiteor Deo omnipotenti, etc.*

Listen attentively and as the priest says  
 the last words of the Confiteor—"ad Do-  
 minum Deum nostrum"—bow your head  
 slightly and at the same time turn toward  
 the priest and say:

Mee-zay-ray-ah'toor      too'ee      om-nee'poe-tenz  
**S. Misereatur                      tui                      omnipotens**  
 day'oose | ett dee-mee'seese pay-kah'teese too'eese  
**Deus; et, dimissis peccatis                      tuis,**  
 per-doo'cot tay ahd vee'tahm ay-tair'nahm.  
**perducat te ad vitam aeternam.**

Then the priest answers:

*P. Amen.*

Now bow your head and shoulders low  
 towards the altar and say:

Con-fee'tay-or day'oh om-nee-po-ten'tee | bay-ah'tay  
 S. Confiteor Deo omnipotenti, beatae  
 mah-ree'ay sem'pair veer'jee-nee | bay-ah'toe  
 Mariae semper Virgini, beato  
 mee-kah-ay'lee ark-ahn'jay-lo | bay-ah'toe  
 Michaeli Archangelo, beato  
 yo-ahn'nee bahp-tee'stay | sahnk'teese ah-po'sto-  
 Joanni Baptistae, sanctis Aposto-  
 leese pay'tro ett pow'lo | om'nee-boose sahnk'teese  
 lis Petro et Paulo, omnibus Sanctis,

Now with head bowed turn toward the priest and say:

ett tee'bee | pah'tair  
 et tibi, Pater,

Turning again toward the altar continue:

kwee'ah pay-kah'vee nee'meese | coe-jee-tot-see-  
 quia peccavi nimis cogitati-  
 oh'nay | vair'bo | ett oh'pay-ray  
 one, verbo, et opere

Now strike your breast and say:

may'ah cool'pa  
 mea culpa

Strike your breast again and say:

may'ah cool'pa  
 mea culpa

And for the third time strike your breast and say:

may'ah mock'see-ma cool'pa | ee'day-oh pray'cor  
 mea maxima culpa. Ideo precor  
 bay-ah'tahm mah-ree'ahm sem'pair veer'jee-nem |  
 beatam Mariam semper Virginem,  
 bay-ah'toom mee-kah-ay'lem ark-ahn'jay-loom |  
 beatum Michaellem Archangelum,

bay-ah'toom      yo-ahn'nem      bahp-tee'stahn  
 beatum              Joannem              Baptistam,  
 sahnk'tose ah-po'sto-loese pay'troom ett pow'loom  
 sanctos      Apostolos      Petrum et Paulum,  
 om'nays sahnk'tose  
 omnes      Sanctos

Now turn toward the priest and say:

ett tay pah'tair  
 et te, Pater,

Face the altar again and continue:

oh-rah'ray pro may | odd doe'mee-noom day'oom  
 orare      pro me      ad Dominum, Deum  
 nos'troom.  
 nostrum.

Remain with head and shoulders bowed while the priest says:

P. *Misereatur vestri omnipotens Deus, et, dimissis peccatis vestris, perducatur vos ad vitam aeternam.*

Kneeling erect, answer:

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

Make the sign of the cross with the priest as he says:

P. *Indulgentiam, absolutionem, et remissionem peccatorum nostrorum tribuat nobis omnipotens et misericors Dominus.*

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

Bow your head slightly during the following responses:

P. *Deus, tu conversus vivificabis nos.*

Ett playbs too'ah. lay-tah'bee-toor in tay.

S. *Et plebs tua laetabitur in te.*

P. *Ostende nobis, Domine, misericordiam tuam.*

Ett sah-loo-tah'ray too'oom dah no'beese.

**S. Et salutare tuum da nobis.**

*P. Domine, exaudi orationem meam.*

Ett clah'more may'oose odd tay vay'nee-ott.

**S. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.**

*P. Dominus vobiscum.*

Ett coom spee'ree-too too'oh.

**S. Et cum spiritu tuo.**

Arise at once (where it is customary, lift the priest's alb a little as he goes up the steps), genuflect in the center, go to the Gospel side and kneel on the lowest step. Keep hands folded throughout the Mass except when they are otherwise occupied.

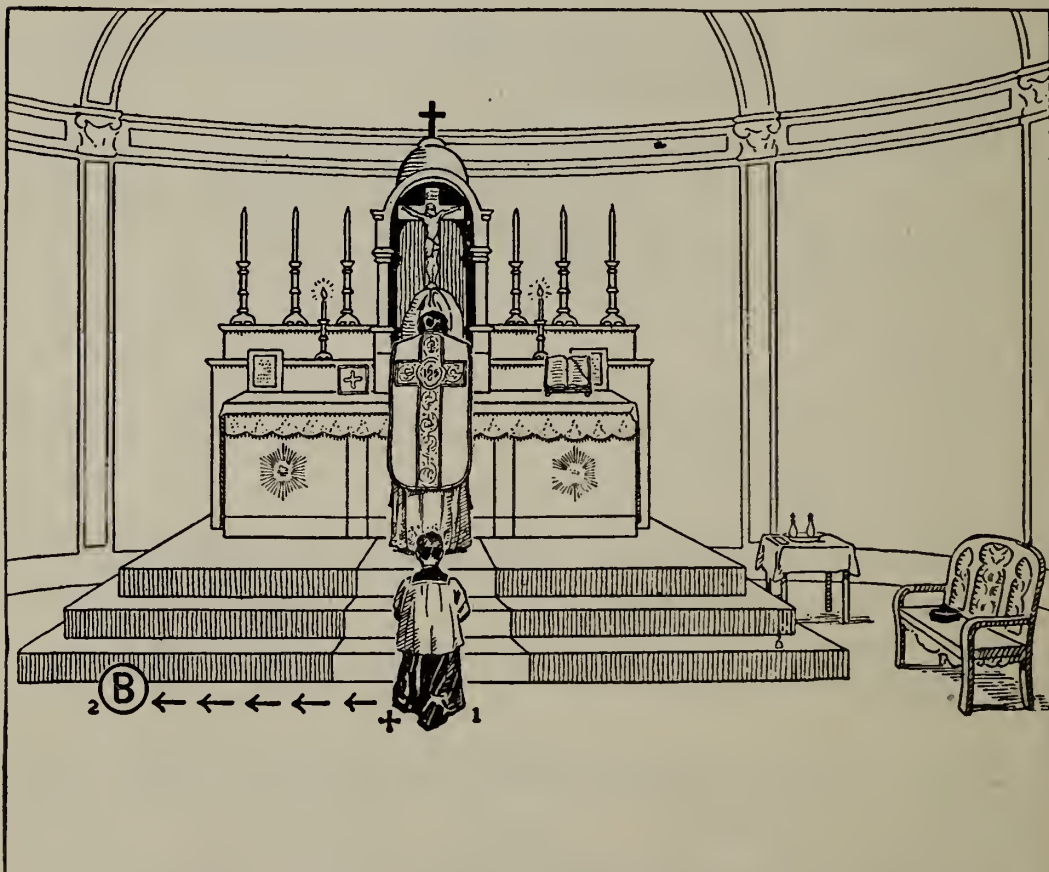


DIAGRAM No. 3

*This shows your position after the Priest has ascended to the Altar. You are kneeling on the lowest step on the side opposite the Missal.*

## LESSON II

### *From the Introit to the Offertory*

#### THE INTROIT

The priest ascends the steps, goes to the missal at the Epistle side (right) and reads the *Introit*. Make the sign of the cross with him. Notice your position; you are opposite the missal. This is the rule all through the rest of the Mass.

The *Introit* is usually a short reading of Scripture, so be attentive, for the priest will soon return to the center of the altar and say:

P. *Kyrie, eleison.*

You answer:

Kee'ree-ay ay-lay'ee-son.

S. **Kyrie, eleison.**

P. *Kyrie, eleison.*

You answer:

Kree'stay ay-lay'ee-son

S. **Christe, eleison.**

P. *Christe, eleison.*

Again you answer:

Kree'stay ay-lay'ee-son.

S. **Christe, eleison.**

P. *Kyrie, eleison.*

You answer:

Kee'ree-ay ay-lay'ee-son.

S. **Kyrie, eleison.**

P. *Kyrie, eleison.*

The priest remains standing at the center

of the altar and says the *Gloria* (sometimes it is omitted). Then he kisses the altar and, turning toward the people, says:

P. *Dominus vobiscum.*

To which you respond:

Ett koom spee'ree-too too'-oh.

S. Et cum spiritu tuo.

The priest now goes to the missal and reads the prayer of the Mass—called the *Collect*. He holds his hands outstretched during the reading of the prayer but at the end he draws his hands together and says:

P. *Per omnia saecula saeculorum.*

Be alert and respond:

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

The priest may read more than one prayer, perhaps two or three more, but he will only say, *Per omnia saecula saeculorum*, twice. Whenever you hear these words, answer:

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

### THE EPISTLE

After saying the prayers, the priest places his hands on either side of the missal and reads the *Epistle*. Watch him closely now, for as he finishes reading the *Epistle* he will give you a sign, either by slightly turning his head to you or by dropping his left hand upon the altar. When you see the signal, say:

Day'oh graht'see-ahse.

Deo gratias.

Then rise, walk — don't rush — to the *Epistle* side of the altar, genuflecting when



passing the center, go up the side steps and wait on the step below the platform until the priest starts toward the center of the altar. (The altar boy may stand facing the priest or he may face the same direction as the priest.)

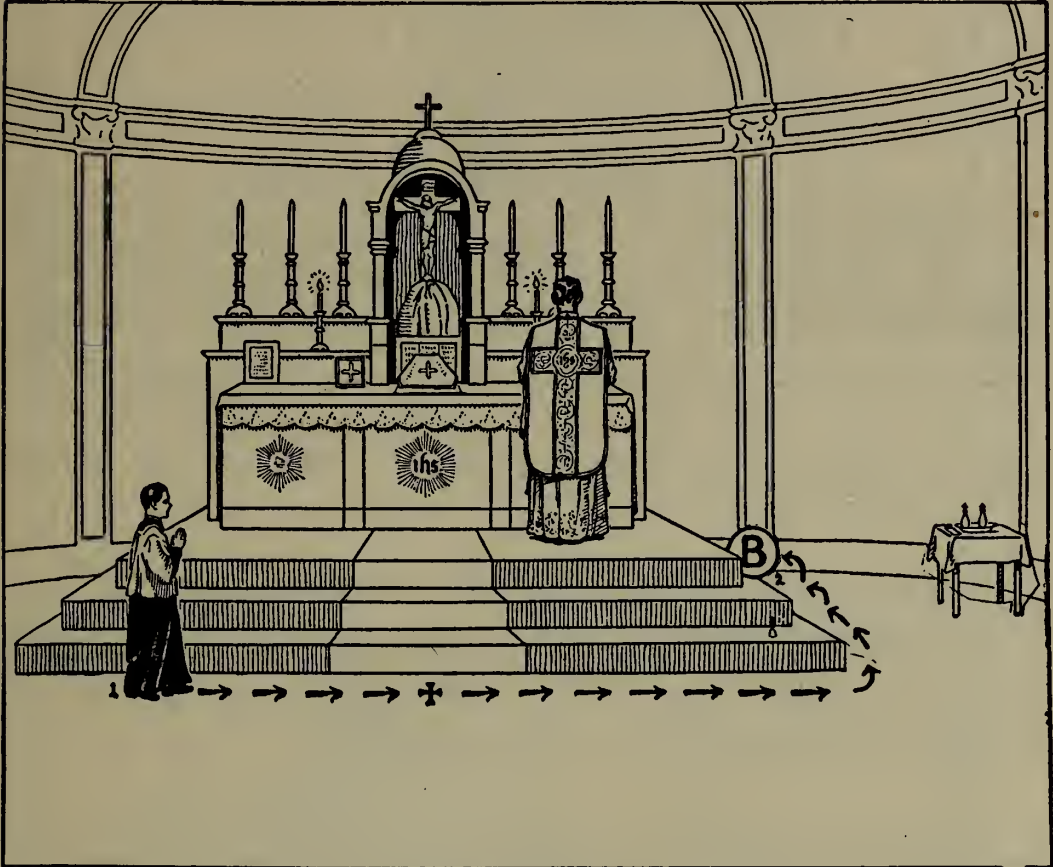


DIAGRAM No. 4

*The arrows show the direction in which you proceed to get the Missal.*

Now take a firm hold of the missal stand with the book, turn to your left, descend the front steps diagonally to the floor in the center of the altar, genuflect on the floor, ascend the front steps diagonally to the opposite side, place the stand with the missal on the Gospel side of the altar with the front turned partly toward the tabernacle, stand on the first step below the platform, and face the priest.

Now observe the picture.

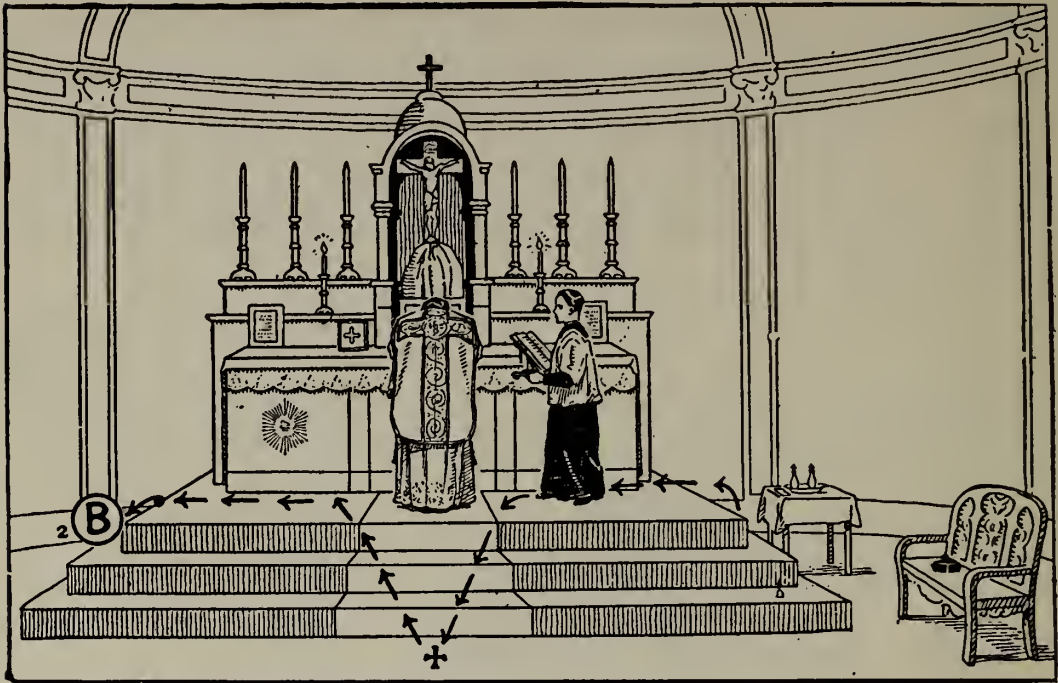


DIAGRAM No. 5

*The arrows show the direction you take to carry the Missal from the Epistle to the Gospel side.*

Note well that the boy turns to his left with missal and that when placing the missal on the altar at the Gospel side he turns it a little toward the tabernacle.

NOTE: In some places the altar boy transfers the Missal by descending the side steps, passing center of altar, genuflecting and passing around to and ascending the Gospel side steps. This custom is approved by liturgical authorities.

### THE GOSPEL

When the priest comes to the missal to read the gospel, he says:

*P. Dominus vobiscum.*

You respond at once:

Ett coom spee'ree-too too'oh.

*S. Et cum spiritu tuo.*

Now observe the priest and as he signs the missal and himself with the sign of the

cross; you, at the same time, with the thumb of your open right hand, make the sign of the cross upon your forehead, your lips, and the center of your breast.

While making these signs, the priest says:  
P. *Sequentia Sancti Evangelii, etc.*

To which you respond:

Gloh'ree-ah tee'bee doe'mee-nay.

S. Gloria tibi, Domine.

Immediately bowing to the priest, turn to your right, go down the side steps to the floor, walk to the Epistle side and genuflect while passing the center of the altar. Remain standing during the reading of the Gospel, and turn slightly toward the priest.

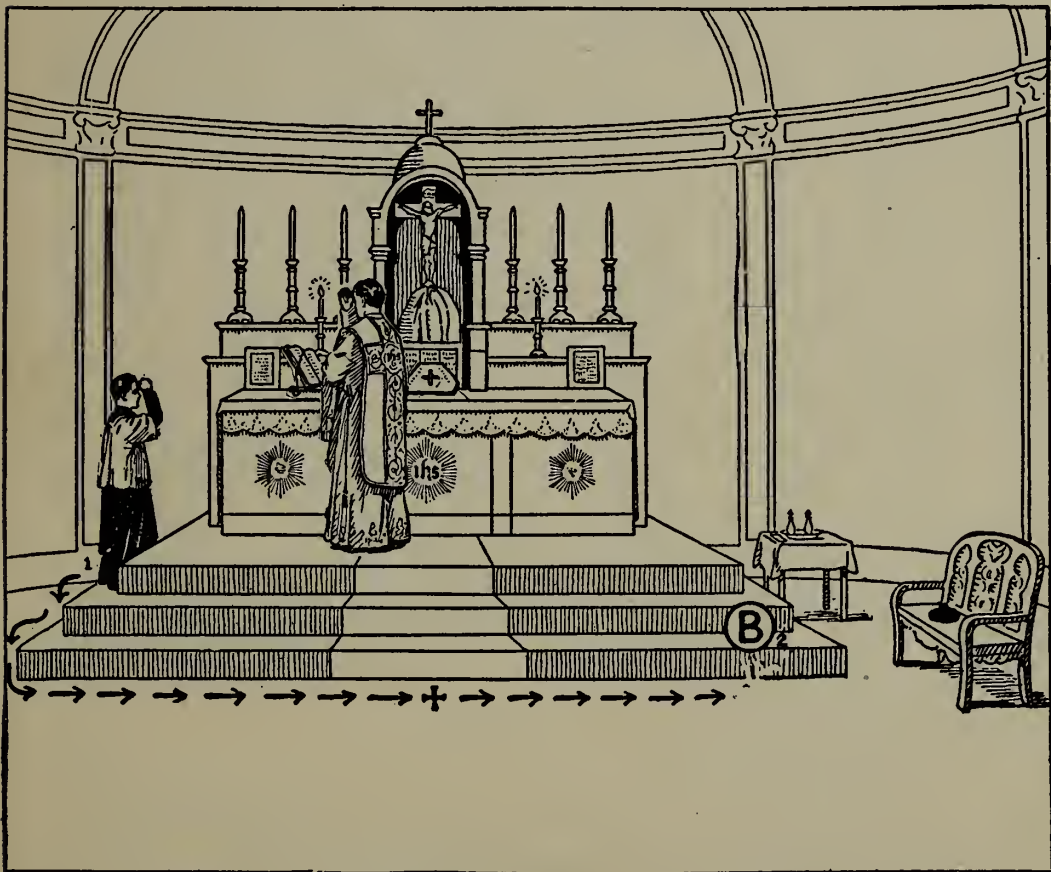


DIAGRAM No. 6

*The arrows show the direction you take when leaving the Priest at the Gospel side to return to the Epistle side.*

When the priest finishes reading the Gospel, say:

Louse tee'bee kree'stay.

Laus tibi, Christe.

and kneel at once on the lowest step.

Remain kneeling whether the priest says the *Credo* or not. Should he say it, bow your head reverently when he genuflects at the words "*et incarnatus est, etc.*" At the end of the *Credo* (or after the Gospel, when the *Credo* is not said) the priest turns to the people and says:

P. *Dominus vobiscum.*

to which you always answer:

Ett koom spee'ree-too too'oh.

Et cum spiritu tuo.

## LESSON III

### *From the Offertory to the Canon of the Mass*

#### THE OFFERTORY

The priest faces the altar and now reads a short prayer called the Offertory, at the end of which he uncovers the chalice.



DIAGRAM No. 7

*This picture shows the Priest uncovering the Chalice.*

As soon as he removes the veil from the chalice and places it on the altar table to his right, arise at once, without genuflecting, and go directly to the credence table for the cruets.

Take the wine cruet in your right hand, the water cruet in your left hand, then go up the side steps to the one next to the platform and stand facing the Gospel side.

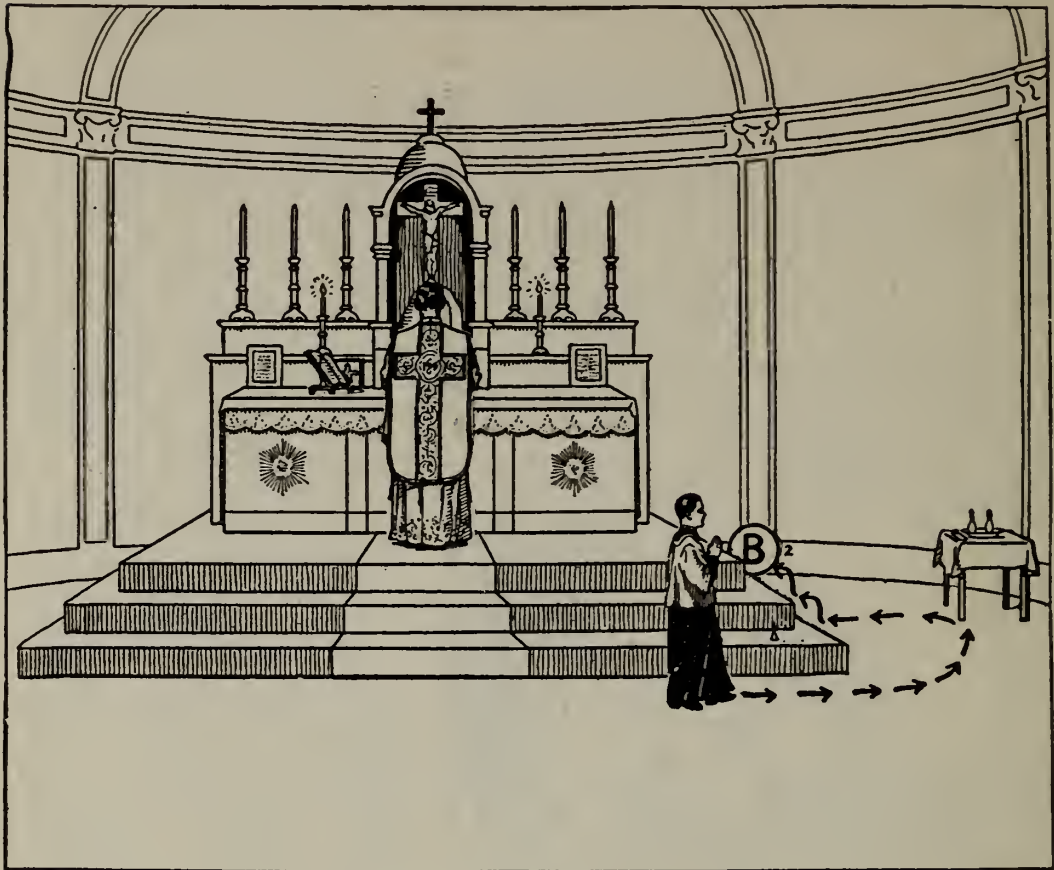


DIAGRAM No. 8

*The arrows show the directions taken for going to the Credence Table and for bringing the water and wine to the Altar.*

(NOTE: As at the Epistle, the boy may stand facing the same direction as the priest and turn to face the Gospel side when the priest approaches him. Either one of these positions may be taken at the Epistle, at the presentation of the cruets with the water and wine, at the washing of fingers, and at the ablutions after Communion.)

As soon as the priest comes toward you, make a slight bow and present the cruets to him, kissing each cruet before presenting it and also after you receive it back from him. Hold the cruets at their base with the handle turned partly toward the priest.

Remember, each cruet is presented with the right hand; so, as soon as the priest takes the wine cruet, transfer the water cruet from the left to the right hand, and receive the wine cruet from the priest with your left hand, but receive the water cruet with your right hand. As soon as you have received both cruets, bow slightly to the priest and return to the credence table.

Now take the finger towel, open it out, and place it over your left arm; take the basin or dish in your left hand and the water cruet in your right hand and return to the same step, facing as before.

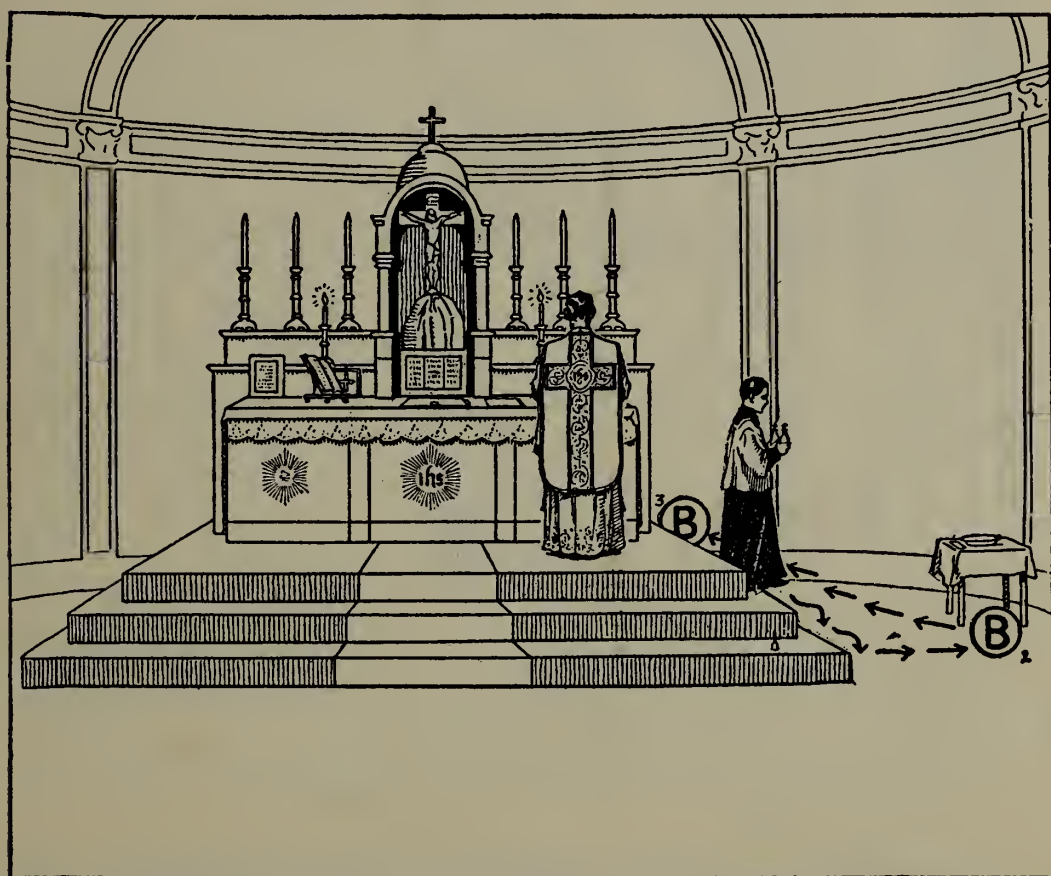


DIAGRAM No. 9

*The arrows show the direction taken to get the cruet, towel and basin at the Credence Table and to return to the Altar for the washing of the Priest's hands.*



DIAGRAM No. 10

*This picture shows the manner of holding the cruet and basin to pour the water on the Priest's fingers.*

Bow as the priest approaches you, hold the basin or dish under and near his fingers and gently pour the water over them. Turn a little to your right so that the priest can conveniently take the towel from your left arm; remain standing in that position until he places the finger towel on your arm.

Then bow slightly to the priest and replace the cruet, towel and basin on the credence table.

Return to your place at the Epistle side, without genuflecting, and kneel erect with hands folded.



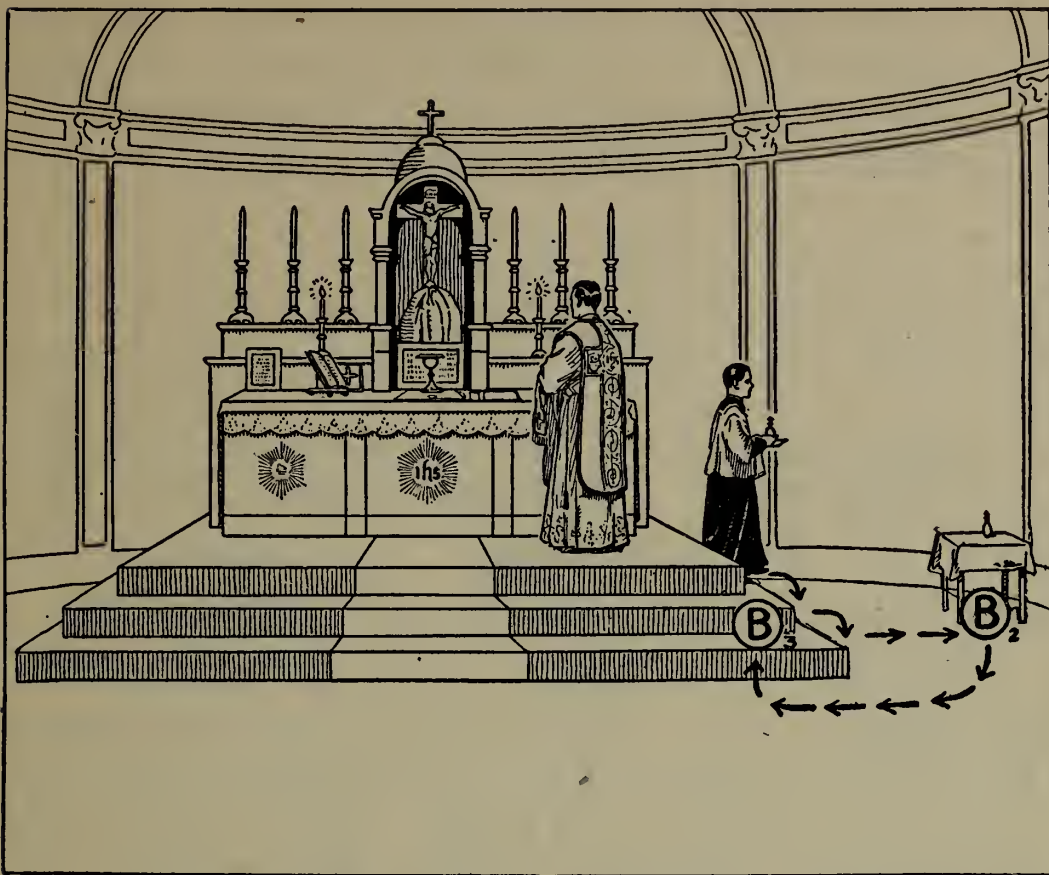


DIAGRAM No. 11

*The arrows show the direction taken to replace the cruet, towel and basin on the Credence Table and then to return to your place on the Epistle side.*

You will have scarcely reached your place when the priest will turn toward the people and say:

*P. Orate, fratres.*

Wait until the priest is again facing the altar and respond at once, bowing head and shoulders slightly. (If customary, remain erect.)

S.	Suscipiat	Dominus	sacrificium
day	mah'nee-boose	too'eeese	odd lou-dem ett
de	manibus	tuis	ad laudem et
gloh'ree-ahm	noe'mee-neese	soo'ee	odd
gloriam	nominis	sui	ad

oo-tee-lee-tah'tem kwo'kway no'strahm | tote-see-  
 utilitatem quoque nostram toti-  
 oos'kway ay-clay'zee-ay soo'ay sahnk'tay.  
 usque Ecclesiae suae sanctae.

### THE PREFACE

Now see that the bell is handy and remain kneeling erect, listening attentively, for soon the priest will say:

P. *Per omnia saecula saeculorum.*

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

P. *Dominus vobiscum.*

Ett coom spee'ree-too too'oh.

S. Et cum spiritu tuo.

P. *Sursum corda.*

Hah-bay'moos odd doe'mee-noom.

S. Habemus ad dominum.

P. *Gratias agamus Domino Deo nostro.*

Deen'yoom ett yoos'toom est.

S. Dignum et justum est.

The priest then reads aloud a long prayer called the *Preface*, the last words of which are "*sine fine dicentes*"; at these words he bows low and says "*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, etc.*," at which words you immediately ring the bell three times, then fold your hands and kneel erect.

(NOTE: In some churches a third candle is lighted at this part of the Mass and later is extinguished after the Communion.)

## LESSON IV

### *From the Canon of the Mass to the Communion*

#### THE CANON

You have now come to the most important part of the Mass, called the *Canon of the Mass*.



DIAGRAM No. 12

This picture shows the moment when the Priest says the "Hanc igitur" and spreads his hands, palms down, over the Chalice. Now you ring the bell.

#### THE "HANC IGITUR"

The priest having said several prayers — watch closely — now brings his hands together, then extends them open with palms turned down over the chalice. He says a prayer, "*Hanc igitur.*" Now you give a signal by ringing the bell, indicating that the time of the consecration is approaching.

Then, rising, go to the middle, genuflect, go up the steps

and kneel on the edge of the platform a little to the right of the priest, as in this picture.

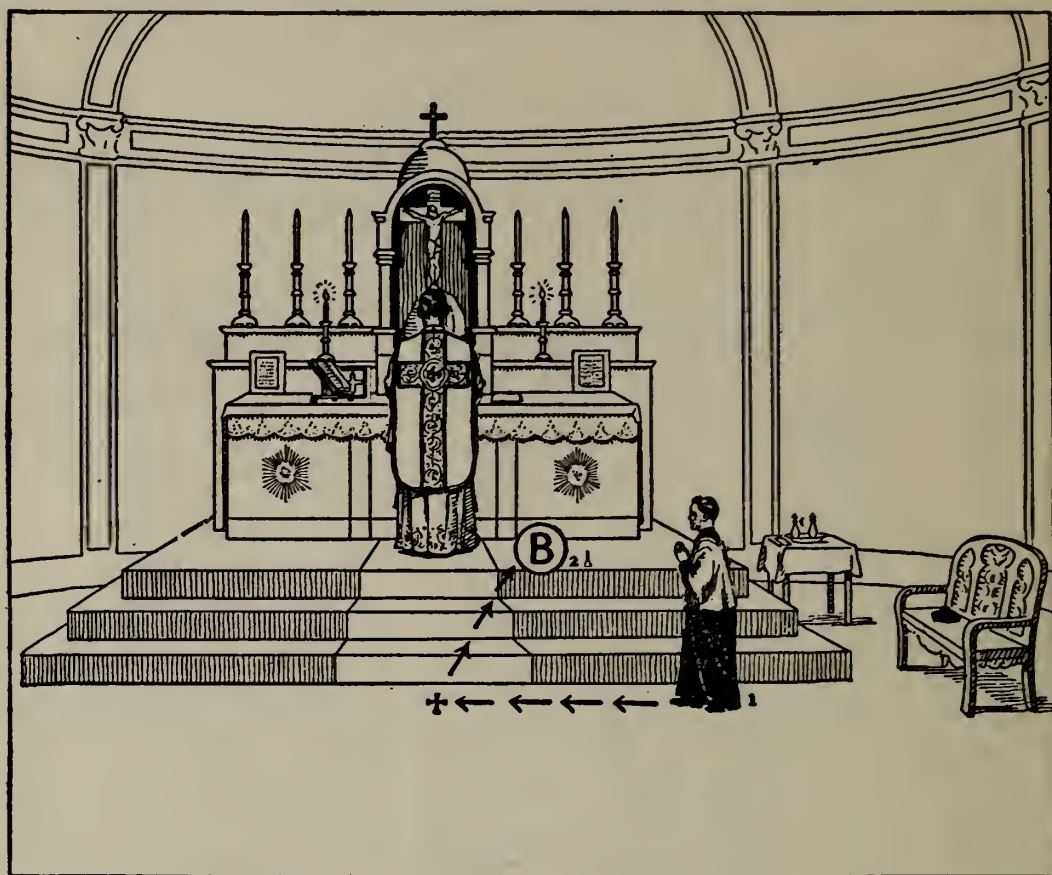


DIAGRAM No. 13

*The arrows show how to take position at the top platform for the Consecration.*

### THE CONSECRATION

You are now at the most solemn moment of the Mass—the *Consecration*—and you should try to realize as best you can what is about to take place.

The priest is now about to change the bread and wine into the sacred body and blood of our divine Lord.

Let your exterior reverence show your real internal feelings.

## THE ELEVATION OF THE SACRED HOST



DIAGRAM No. 14

*This picture shows the manner of lifting the Chasuble during the time that the Priest elevates the Sacred Host.*

let go of the chasuble and, as he again genuflects, again ring the bell.

Kneeling in position, as indicated in the previous picture, do not touch the chasuble, but bow profoundly and ring the bell as the priest genuflects; then, kneeling erect, slightly raise the lower end of the chasuble with your left hand (see picture), ring the bell again and look at the Host as the priest raises It above his head; when he places the Host upon the altar,

(NOTE: An indulgence of 7 years and 7 quarantines may be gained by looking at the Host and saying, "My Lord and my God!")

### THE ELEVATION OF THE CHALICE

Remain in same position and do exactly as you did for the consecration of the Host; that is: (1) bow profoundly; (2) ring bell as priest genuflects; (3) slightly raise the end of the chasuble with your left hand as the priest elevates the chalice and with your right hand ring the bell; (4) let go of the chasuble as he places the chalice upon the altar; (5) ring the bell again as he genuflects.

Now rise, go down the steps to the center of the altar, genuflect and go to the Epistle side and kneel where you knelt before the consecration. Keep your hands folded unless you are using a prayer book.

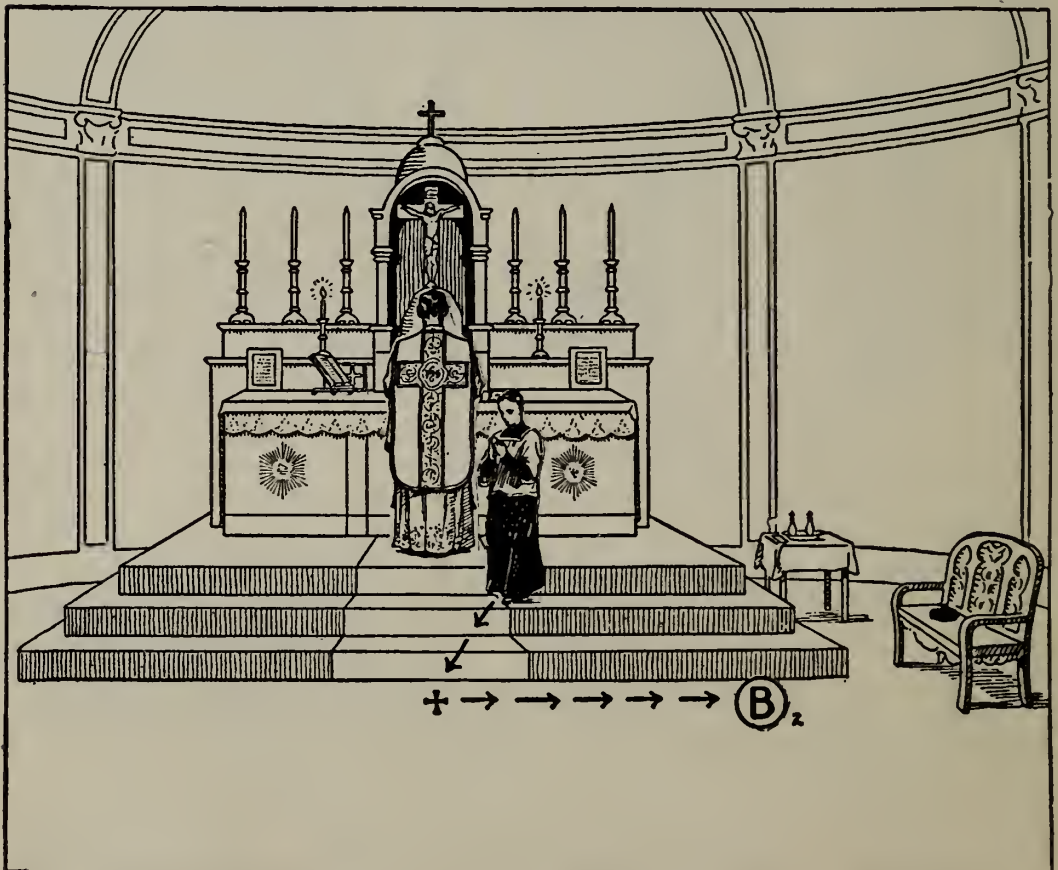


DIAGRAM No. 15

*The arrows show direction taken when returning to the Epistle side.*

Remain in this position from now until the Communion.

There is a great silence now, during which time the priest says several prayers, including the *Memento* for the dead. Watch him closely, for after he genuflects, he say:

P. *Per omnia saecula saeculorum.*

You answer:

ah-men'.

S. Amen.

### THE "PATER NOSTER"

The priest then says the *Pater Noster*, that is the "Our Father," with his hands outstretched. Watch carefully and you will hear him say at the end:

P. *Et ne nos inducas in tentationem.*

To which you respond at once:

Said lee'bay-rah noese ah mah'lo.

S. Sed libera nos a malo.

The priest, after genuflecting, says:

P. *Per omnia saecula saeculorum.*

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

P. *Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum.*

Ett coom spee'ree-too too'oh.

S. Et cum spiritu tuo.

The priest genuflects again and says aloud aloud three times *Agnus Dei*, etc., striking his breast each time. Bow your head slightly and strike your breast in the same way.

### THE PRIEST'S COMMUNION

The priest bent forward has said some prayers silently in preparation for receiving Holy Communion.



DIAGRAM No. 16

*This picture shows the Priest's action when he is about to take Holy Communion and indicates to you the time to ring the bell.*

Kneel erect with hands folded and notice that some time later the priest genuflects and takes the Sacred Host in the fingers of his left hand, holding the paten under It. Then he strikes his breast three times, saying each time, *Domine non sum dignus, etc.* Each time he strikes his breast, ring the bell as a signal of the Communion of the Mass.





DIAGRAM No. 17

*This picture shows Priest taking Pall off Chalice. This is the time for you to go to Credence Table.*

After the priest has consumed the Sacred Host, he removes the pall from the chalice, genuflects and gathers up with the paten any Sacred Particles that may happen to be upon the corporal.

(NOTE: See the directions on page 45. What you must do if Holy Communion is given to the people during Mass. If Holy Communion is not distributed, then proceed as follows:)

As soon as the priest removes the pall rise and, without genuflecting, go directly to the credence table for the wine and water cruets. (See Diagram No. 18.) Then proceed to the side steps, and, genuflecting on the floor, ascend to next to the highest step and remain with head slightly bowed while the priest consumes the Precious Blood.

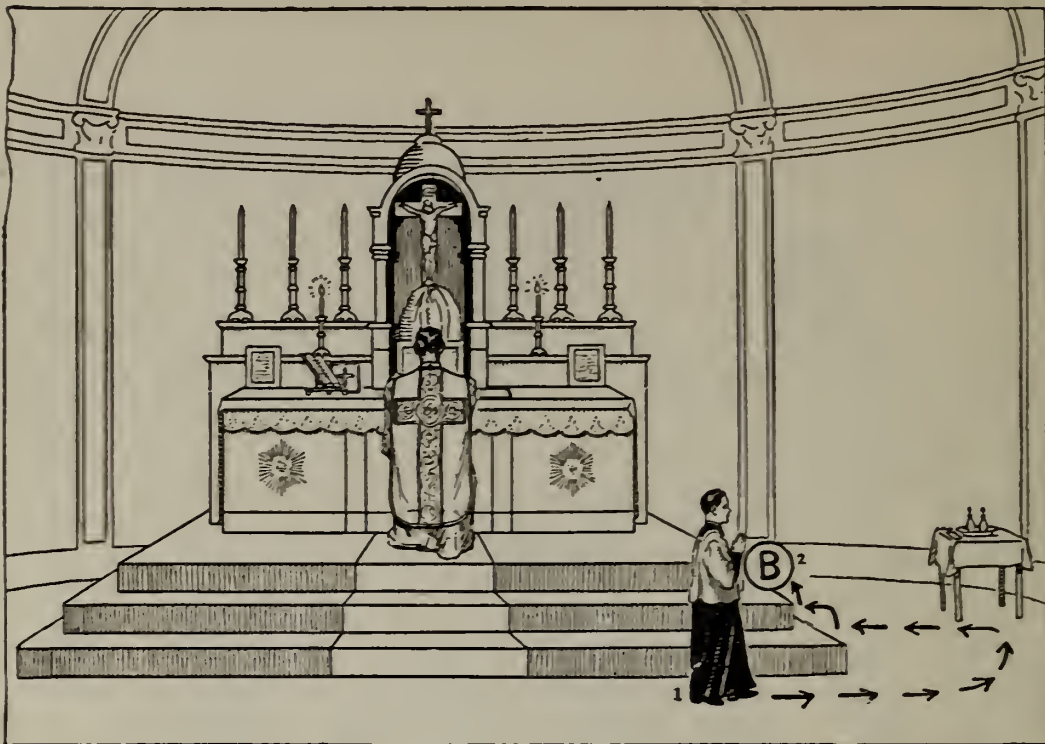


DIAGRAM No. 18

*The arrows show the direction taken to go to the Credence Table to bring the cruets to the Altar.*

When the priest has consumed the Precious Blood, he remains standing at the center of the altar and now extends the chalice toward you; making a bow, advance toward him and pour some wine into the chalice—be careful that the cruet does not touch the chalice—until the priest raises the chalice a little, which is the signal for you to stop pouring the wine. Then bow and go back and stand on the step as before.

As the priest comes toward you, bow slightly and then pour first the wine and then the water over his fingers. Be careful not to let the cruets touch the priest's fingers. As soon as the priest turns to go back to the middle of the altar, bow slightly, return to the credence table and put the cruets thereon.

Leaving the credence table return to the middle of the altar, genuflect, and continue around and up the side steps to the Gospel side of the altar. Taking hold of the missal, descend the front steps diagonally, genuflect and ascend to the Epistle side of the altar. After placing the missal on altar table so that it faces straight in front, descend the side steps, genuflect in the middle again, and go to your proper position on the Gospel side of the altar. (See the following diagram.)

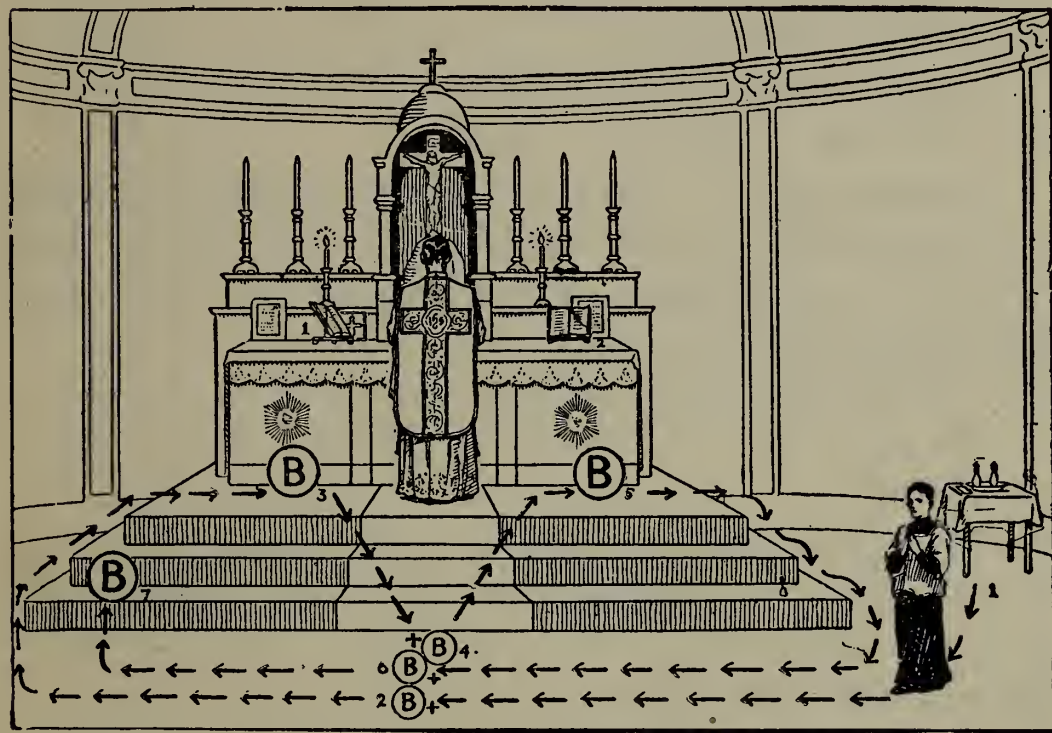


DIAGRAM No. 19

*Follow the boy in the picture from the Credence Table along the line indicated by the arrows and you arrive at your position where you remain almost to the end of Mass. For clearer understanding, the various routes are consecutively numbered.*

(NOTE: For another manner of transferring Missal see note page 24. If, as mentioned on page 32 it is customary to light a third candle at the *Sanctus*, the candle is now extinguished.)

## LESSON V

### *From the Communion to the End of Mass*

#### THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

When the priest has covered the chalice at the center of the altar, he goes to the missal on Epistle side and reads a short prayer called the *Communion*. Then, returning to the center of the altar and facing the people, he says:

P. *Dominus vobiscum.*

Ett coom spee'ree-too too'oh.

S. Et cum spiritu tuo.

Going back to the missal he says a prayer—sometimes more than one—but listen and watch closely, for at the end of the first and last prayers he says:

P. *Per omnia saecula saeculorum.*

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

The priest then closes the missal and, returning to the center of the altar, faces the people and says:

P. *Dominus vobiscum.*

Ett coom spee'ree-too too'oh.

S. Et cum spiritu tuo.

P. *Ite missa est; or sometimes Benedicamus Domino.*

But no matter which one he says, you always answer:

Day'oh grat'see-ahse.

S. Deo gratias.

Should the priest have left the missal open, you immediately rise, genuflect at the middle and transfer the book as you did after the Epistle.

### THE BLESSING

If the missal has been closed, remain kneeling. Now the priest, standing in the center of the altar, raises his hands, invoking God's blessing. Bow your head. Then the priest turns to the people and, blessing them, says aloud:

P. *Pater, et Filius, ✠ et Spiritus Sanctus.*

Bless yourself and respond:

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

### THE LAST GOSPEL

Now stand and when the priest, who has gone to the Gospel side, says:

P. *Dominus vobiscum.*

You answer:

Ett coom spee'ree-too too'oh.

S. Et cum spiritu tuo.

As the priest signs himself, saying, *Initium sancti Evangelii secundum, etc.*, you also make the sign of the cross with the thumb on the forehead, lips and breast and say:

Gloh'ree-ah tee'bee doe'mee-nay.

S. Gloria tibi, Domine.

Then go to the center of the altar, genuflect, bring the priest's biretta from the sedilia and stand at the Epistle side, a little toward the center.

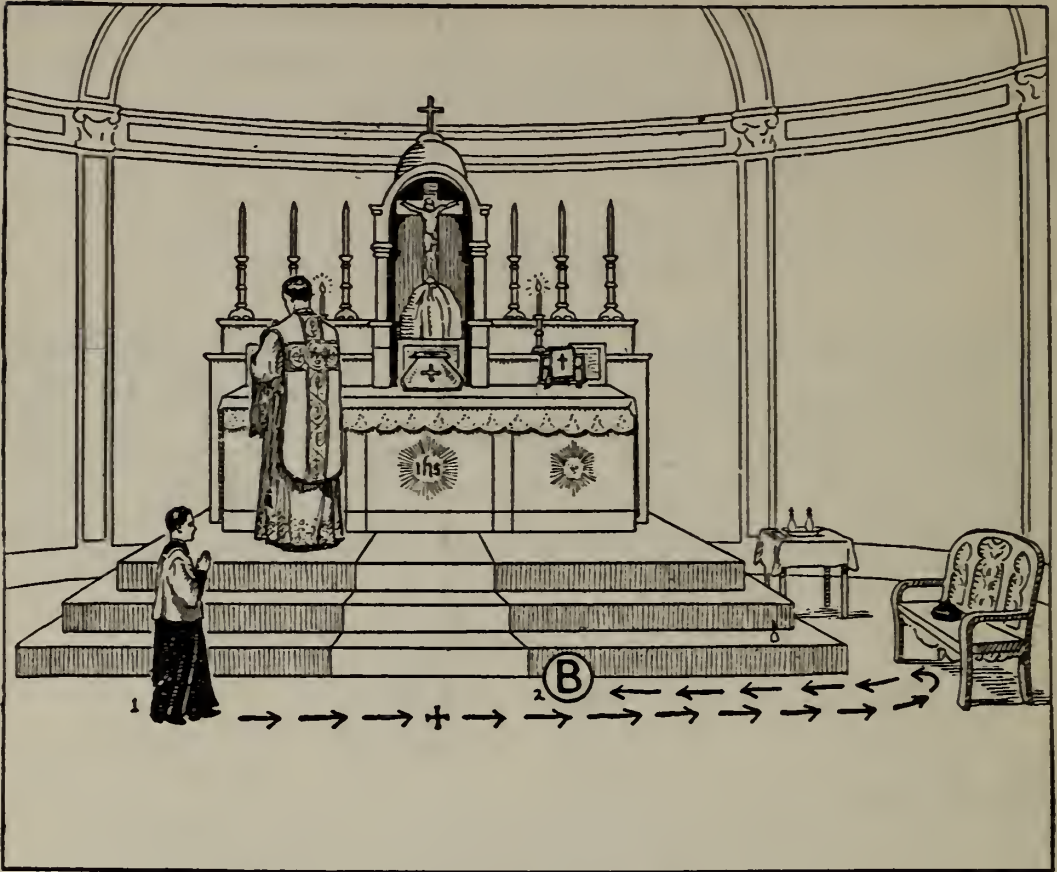


DIAGRAM No. 20

*The arrows show direction taken to get the Priest's Biretta and for returning to the center of Altar to await the end of the Mass.*

Remain standing during the reading of the Gospel, genuflect if the priest does so, and at the end of the Gospel say:

Day'oh grat'see-ahse.

S. Deo gratias.

During the prayers after Mass remain kneeling on the first step at the right of the priest. Hand him the prayer card if he wishes it. At the end of the prayers, stand with the priest, hand him his biretta, genuflect with him and precede him to the sacristy. On arriving in the sacristy make a profound bow with the priest to the crucifix. Help the priest to unvest if he wishes it. Then ex-

tinguish the candles on the altar putting out first the one on the Gospel side, and bring the cruets, etc., to the sacristy.

**WHAT TO DO IF HOLY COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED DURING MASS**

If Holy Communion is distributed to the people during Mass, instead of getting the cruets after the priest has himself received the Sacred Host and removes the pall from the chalice and genuflects, do as follows: Go to the credence table for the Communion paten, hand it to farthest communicant from center on Epistle side and then kneel on the lowest step on the Epistle side.

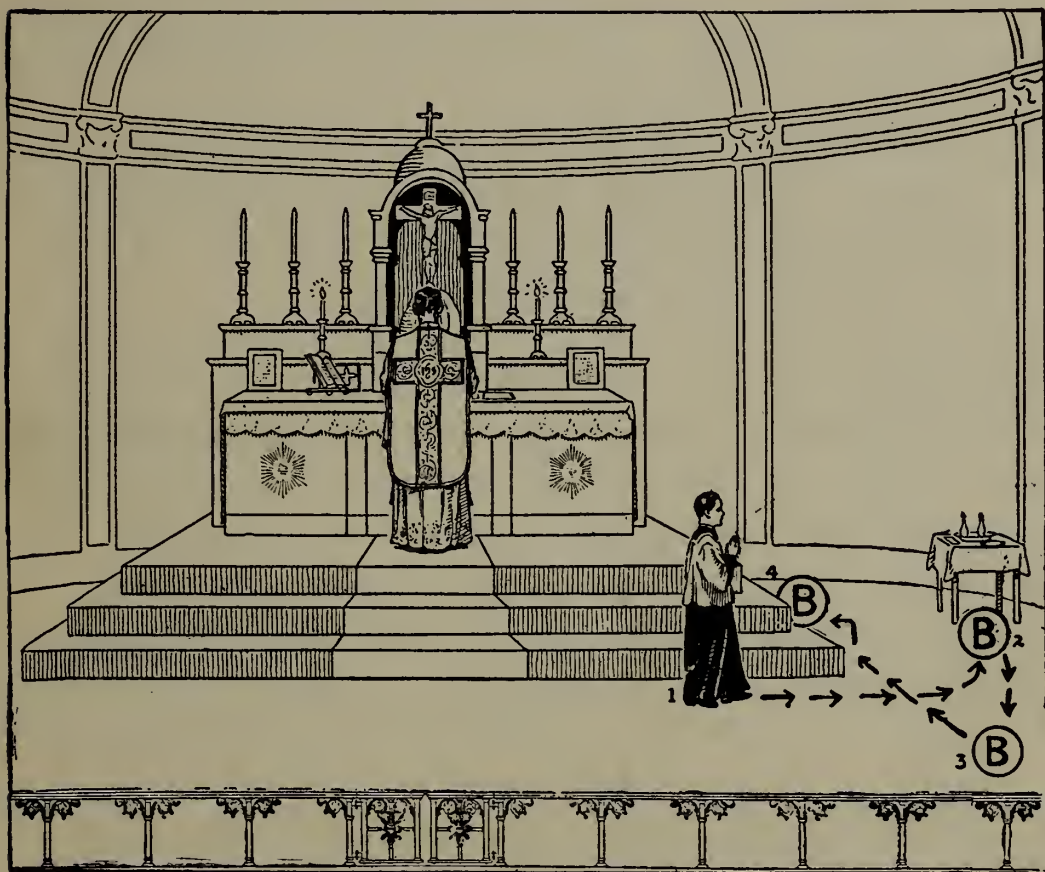


DIAGRAM No. 21

*The arrows show the direction taken to the Credence Table to get the Communion Paten and then to the Communion rail, leaving the Paten there and returning to the Epistle side of the Altar.*

As the priest consumes the Precious Blood, bow low and recite the *Confiteor*. (Page 18.)

(If the altar boy receives Holy Communion, he does so before all others. He now genuflects, and ascends to the platform, kneeling at the edge a little to the right of the center. After receiving, he descends to the floor, genuflects and returns to his place as before.)

The priest, turning partly toward the people, says:

P. *Misereatur tui omnipotens Deus, et, dimissis peccatis tuis, perducatur te ad vitam aeternam.*

You answer:

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

The priest then raises his hand and makes the sign of the cross (bless yourself at the same time) saying:

P. *Indulgentiam, absolutionem, et remissionem peccatorum nostrorum, tribuat nobis omnipotens et misericors Dominus.*

To which you answer:

Ah-men'.

S. Amen.

The priest genuflects and, holding a Sacred Host in his fingers, turns toward the people, and says:

P. *Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccata mundi.*

The priest then also says three times:

P. *Domine, non sum dignus, ut intres sub tectum meum: sed tantum dic verbo, et sanabitur anima mea.*

Where it is customary the bell is rung each time as the priest says the above words. The priest then distributes Holy Communion. As soon as all have received Holy Communion and the Blessed Sacrament has



been replaced in the tabernacle, proceed as directed on page 39.

### THE MASS FOR THE DEAD

You serve a Mass for the dead, that is, when the priest wears black vestments, exactly the same as you do any low Mass, with the following exceptions:

1. You omit the responses from the first *Ad Deum qui laetificat* to the response, *Qui fecit coelum et terram* and continue then the ordinary prayers at the foot of the altar (page 17).
2. Do not kiss the cruets (page 28).
3. Do not strike your breast at the *Agnus Dei* (page 37).
4. Instead of the *Ite Missa est*, the priest always says, *Requiescant in pace*, to which you respond *Amen* (page 42).
5. There is no blessing at the end.

### MASS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT EXPOSED

The ceremonies for low Mass said in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed are the same as those of the ordinary low Mass except:

1. If the Blessed Sacrament is exposed genuflect on both knees upon arriving at the altar and again when leaving after Mass. All other genuflections are on one knee only.
2. Do not kiss the cruets.
3. At the *Lavabo* the priest descends from the platform to the floor or to one of the side steps and the server faces him while washing his fingers.
4. No bell is rung during Mass.

## CEREMONIES FOR LOW MASS WITH TWO ALTAR BOYS

Note to Instructor: All ceremonies are the same as when one boy serves Mass, with the following exceptions. These directions are merely suggestive, as customs differ in various places under different circumstances. However, they are in general in conformity with the rules given by approved liturgical authors.

### DUTIES OF ALTAR BOY No. 1 (AT EPISTLE SIDE)

### DUTIES OF ALTAR BOY No. 2 (AT GOSPEL SIDE)

#### *At the Beginning of Mass*

Receives biretta

#### *At the Epistle*

Transfers the Missal

#### *At the Offertory*

Presents the wine

Presents the water

#### *At the Lavabo*

Presents the towel

Pours the water

#### *At the Sanctus*

Rings the bell

#### *At the "Hanc igitur"*

Rings the bell

#### *At the Elevation*

Holds chasuble and rings bell

Holds chasuble

#### *At the "Domine non sum dignus"*

Rings the bell

#### *After the Priest's Communion*

Pours the wine

Pours the water

#### *At the Changing of Missal and Veil*

Transfers the Veil

Transfers the Missal

#### *If Missal is to be Transferred for Last Gospel*

Transfers the Missal

#### *At the Last Gospel*

Brings biretta

*Responses:*

All responses are made by both boys.

*Genuflections:*

All genuflections are made by both boys.

*Movements:*

Whenever a duty is to be performed by one or both boys, both boys proceed to the center of altar and genuflect on the floor before and after the action.

*At the Communion  
of the people:*

Altar Boy No. 1 acts as directed on pages 45, 46. Altar Boy No. 2 kneels on Gospel side step.



