

Instructions for Acolytes:

Purpose: Carrying the cross and torches, the acolytes lead the Opening Procession into the worship service. They also lead the Gospel Procession into the nave during the service. At the conclusion of the service, they lead the Closing Procession out of the church. The crucifer carries the cross; the torchbearers carry the torches.

What follows is a brief overview of the duties of the acolytes during worship services. A more complete description of the role of acolytes may be found in the Acolytes Manual at the end of this document.

Before the service:

- Arrive 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the service and put on correct vestments
- The crucifer should light the candles on the altar and at the lectern.
- Shortly before the service gather in the narthex with cross and torches ready to lead the Opening Procession. Just prior to the beginning of the service the torchbearers should light their candles.

During the service:

- Lead the Opening Procession into the service followed by the choir, LEM and clergy
- Participate in the service sitting at the front of the room with the LEM
- After the reading of the second lesson during the sequence hymn, lead the Gospel Procession into the nave. Return to the altar after the reading of the gospel.
- At the conclusion of the service, lead the Closing Procession out of the church.

Note: Generally, torchbearers are children of elementary or intermediate school age. Crucifers are middle or high schoolers.