

ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF SAINT STEPHEN

Benediction

Check List

Sanctuary

Altar

- Monstrance
- Burse and Corporal
- Candelabras & Candlesticks (12 in total)
- Flowers

Altar Steps

- Benediction Book
- Devotional Books
- Bell
- Incense Boat

Credence

- Humeral Veil
- (Cope)



The Sanctuary

If there is no sacristan, the server may remove the crucifix and altar cover, if necessary, also the altar cards, and place on the altar the Benediction candlesticks (12 candles in total – six on each side). He will see that the monstrance is in position on the Gospel side, with the opening towards the Tabernacle. The humeral veil should be placed folded on the credence. The Benediction book (and any devotional books that the priest may require) and the bell may be on the altar step.

Benediction

When the celebrant is vested, the procession forms in the following order. The thurifer precedes, carrying and gently swinging the thurible in his left hand, having his thumb in the ring of the cap, and the chain ring on his middle finger, and holding the incense boat in his right hand against his breast; then following the torchbearers carrying the torches in their outside hands, then the servers, and lastly the celebrant with sacred ministers, or with two assistants. If there be two assistants, one will support the cope on the right hand, and the other on the left. The cope is always held by the outside edge on the orphrey or gold-embroidered edge, about a foot from the end, so that the embroidered edge is shown, and not the lining of the cope.

On arrival in the sanctuary, after the birettas have been removed, **all genuflect together**; the celebrant and sacred ministers and the torchbearers remain kneeling. Then the celebrant, the deacon or the assistant priest ascends the altar steps, spreads the corporal and exposes the Blessed Sacrament. He then descends and kneels on the first step. (MC on the right & thurifer on the left of the priest).

The thurifer approaches and hands the incense boat to the MC, while the subdeacon or assistant server come to the right side of the priest to hold the cope. The thurifer, meanwhile, holding the thurible in his left hand, raises the lid-chain with his right hand, and lifts the thurible to the level of the priest's hand, having the hand with the cap against his breast. When the incense has been placed in the thurible, the thurifer, releasing the ring of the middle chain, closes the lid, and will his right hand hands the thurible to the MC, who in turn hands the incense boat back to the thurifer. The MC gives the thurible into the celebrant's right hand and with the left hand passes the cap across into the left hand of the celebrant.

When **the priest incenses the Blessed Sacrament, the assistant servers (MC and thurifer) sustain the cope on either side**. The MC will then receive back the thurible from the celebrant, pass it to the thurifer, who retires aside and remains standing and gently swinging the thurible. Alternatively, the thurifer will receive the thurible from the MC and return to his place, kneeling on the left side of the celebrant.

At the Tantum ergo, or just before, the MC will get the cope from the credence table, if the celebrant is not already wearing it, and places it over the celebrant's shoulders. **Towards the end of the Tantum ergo, the MC will then get the humeral veil** from the credence table and will place it on the shoulders of the celebrant for the blessing. **(Bells may be rung during the blessing, and incensing of the Blessed Sacrament may be carried out (3 x 2 swings). After the blessing the MC will remove the humeral veil from the shoulders of the celebrant and will return it to the credence table.** The MC then returns to kneel, *in plano*, on the right side of the celebrant whilst the Divine Praises are said.

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When the Tabernacle is closed, the thurifer, torchbearers and MC rise, and after genuflecting together with the celebrant, *in plano*, proceed to the sacristy in the same order as they came. Should there be exposition only, without reposition, then there is a double genuflection, before proceeding to the Sacristy.

Benediction Review

1. What items should be prepared for the altar :
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. What should be placed on the altar steps?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
3. What should be placed on or close to the credence?
4. On entering the sanctuary, what do the sacred ministers and servers do together?.....
5. After the celebrant descends the steps after exposing the Blessed Sacrament what happens next?
6. What do the assistant servers do whilst the celebrant incenses the Blessed Sacrament?.....
7. When does the MC get the cope if the priest is not wearing one?.....
8. When does the MC get the humeral veil to place on the celebrant's shoulders?.....
9. What does the MC do during the Benediction?.....
10. What does the thurifer do during the Benediction?.....
11. After the Benediction what does the MC do?.....

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