

Thank you for volunteering to serve as a Crucifer or cross-bearer. This is a sacred task and you bless Epiphany by your participation.

Preparation:

- Before you serve as a Crucifer, take time one Sunday to examine the cross you will carry.
- The cross rests in a stand in front of the stained glass window in the Chapel. Notice that the figure of Jesus on the cross faces to the front, toward the congregation. This is proper placement.
- The proper way to hold a cross for procession:
 - Using your predominant hand (strongest), grab the cross stem approximately 10" down from the Christ figure, so that your thumb faces your chest (make a fist). It should be high enough that you don't trip over the pole/stem as you walk.
 - Using your other hand, turn that hand so that the thumb faces the congregation and clasp the cross stem just above where your predominant hand rests.
 - Elbows should be perpendicular to your body as you carry the cross. You may need to adjust where you position your hands, so that it is comfortable and steady, without risk of dropping or slipping.
 - For Festival Days, the pastor may request that you wear a robe. Robes are stored in the Bride's Room. You may or may not wish to wear a rope belt, your choice.

Before Worship Begins:

- Remove the Cross from the stand by gently lifting it out.
- Carry the cross to the rear of the Chapel and place it carefully against the wall, out of the way and where it won't be knocked over.
- The Crucifer leads the way into worship, followed by the acolytes, clergy and assistants.
- On signal from the Pastor, the Crucifer walks slowly and intentionally, one step at a time, up the center aisle of the Chapel. Go up the 2 steps (chancel area), turn slowly and face the congregation.
- The clergy and assistants who process in will reverence the cross: the Crucifer stands, holding the cross upright, until all persons in the procession have bowed and moved on.
- When all have revered the cross, the Crucifer gently places the cross in the stand behind the altar, fixing the Christ figure so that it faces the congregation.

After Worship:

- The Crucifer approaches the cross where it rests in its stand, usually during the 2nd or 3rd verse of the Sending hymn. Pay attention to the number of hymn verses and whether the hymn is short or long. The goal is to retrieve the cross and recess out during the last hymn verse, but not cut it so close that the hymn ends before the recession arrives at the rear of the church.
- Grasp the cross stem as before.
- Descend the chancel steps and walk slowly and intentionally toward the Chapel doors.
- Upon arriving at the back of the Chapel, the Crucifer turns and faces the congregation, elevating the cross as the Assisting Minister says, "Go in Peace, Serve the Lord" or similar Dismissal, and Congregation responds, "Thanks Be to God." At this point, you may return the cross to the stand.