

The Mission Episcopate of Saints Francis and Clare
A Eucharistic Community in the Liberal Catholic Tradition.

Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi falls on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist on this festival should be marked by a procession round the church with the Sacred Host after the singing of the Adeste Fideles. (The MESFC prefers the omission of this hymn.)

*On the Sunday within the Octave of Corpus Christi, in addition to the procession with the Host, the Holy Eucharist may be celebrated before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed. (The Host is enthroned in the monstrance following the Absolution, and is replaced in the tabernacle before the Ablutions, and other actions are performed as described in "**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.**")*

The arrangements for the procession are as follows: If a canopy is to be used during the procession, there must be sufficient people to carry it, vested in cassock and surplice. The canopy, properly fitted with its poles, should be placed either in the vestry, or inconspicuously to one side of the Sanctuary, whichever is most convenient for the bearers who will carry it to the sanctuary gates at the time the procession is organized.

A canopy need not be used for processions inside a small church, but must be used if the Host is carried outside the church building.

If the celebrant is to carry the Host in the procession, his/her cope will be placed at the sedilia before the service if he/she enters in chasuble. (MESFC: if the procession takes place during Mass, the chasuble may be worn instead of the cope. If it takes place outside of Mass, and no cope is available, either cassock and surplice, or amice, alb and cincture, in each case with stole and humeral veil will suffice.)

The humeral veil will be placed either on the credence or at the sedilia.

*See "**The order of a procession with the Blessed Sacrament**" for further details.*

The Host may be carried in the procession by the celebrant, or by a priest or bishop in choir, vested in cope, in which case the celebrant will either stand at the south end of the altar steps or kneel on the lowest step during the procession to guard the Host remaining on the altar.

If the celebrant is to carry the Host, he/she will, during the Adeste Fideles, genuflect and go to the sedilia to change from chasuble to cope and assume the humeral veil, being assisted by the M.C. and servers. He/she then returns to the footpace and genuflects. The deacons remain at the altar.

If the Eucharist is not being celebrated before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed, the monstrance, covered with a white veil, will be placed on the credence before the service.

In any case a second corporal, folded, will be laid on the altar. The celebrant will be careful to leave a clear space for the second corporal and the monstrance at one side of the usual corporal.

During the singing of the Adeste Fideles, the M.C. (or a server) will bring the veiled monstrance to the celebrant (or to the deacon) who will unfold the second corporal and place the monstrance on it. The veil is removed and taken to the credence.

The celebrant (or deacon), moving the chalice a little to one side of the corporal if necessary, opens the tabernacle (without genuflection by anyone), removes the lunette, places the Host in the monstrance and closes the tabernacle. The monstrance is stood with its edge towards the people. At a High Celebration the deacon will make these preparations while the celebrant is vesting; otherwise the celebrant will make them after returning to the altar.

If the Host is already enthroned, all that is necessary is for the celebrant to assume the cope and humeral veil, the deacon meanwhile unfolding the second corporal, taking the monstrance from its throne and placing it on this corporal (or the celebrant will do so after assuming the cope and humeral veil,)

If another is to carry the Host, he/she will replace the celebrant on the footpace at the conclusion of the Adeste Fideles, the celebrant going to the place where he/she will remain while guarding the altar. If the celebrant does not remain to guard the altar, one of the clergy or a server will remain in the sanctuary, standing before or kneeling upon the lowest step at the epistle end during the procession.

At the conclusion of the Adeste Fideles, the organist plays softly while the procession is being formed. The celebrant turns the monstrance so that it faces the gradines. Covering his/her hands with the ends of the humeral veil, he/she takes up the monstrance, grasping the knob on the stem with his/her right hand and the base with the left, taking care that he/she does not brush against the Host or Chalice on the central corporal.

He/she turns by the right to face the people as soon as the singing of the Litany begins. (MESFC: any suitable hymn, litany or music may be used, or the procession may take place in silence.) The deacons turn with him/her, each turning towards the celebrant so as not to turn their backs to the monstrance. As he/she descends the steps they follow, changing places by crossing over behind him/her so as to be in their correct positions on their return to the altar. During the procession they walk on either side of him/her, a little to the rear, holding upwards and outwards the corners of his/her cope.

*All taking part in the procession turn to face the altar as soon as they reach their assigned positions. As soon as the Singing of the first verse of the Litany begins, all turn and face west and the procession starts. The Litany will either be sung by all, or the odd numbered verses by a cantor and the even numbered verses by the choir and people. In procession the celebrant holds the monstrance so that the Host is about the level of his/her eyes. The thurifer precedes the celebrant, walking backwards and censuring the Host, as described in **"The Order of a Procession with the Blessed Sacrament."***

When the procession returns to the sanctuary the non-officiating clergy go to their places at the side of the sanctuary and kneel. (No one genuflects in the middle upon the return of the procession.) The servers with candles range themselves on either side of the sanctuary and kneel. (The Cross bearer and banner bearers do not kneel.) The thurifer (or thurifers) continues to cense the Host until the altar Steps are reached, whereupon he/she kneels at the epistle side (and the second thurifer at the gospel side); the canopy bearers wait at the sanctuary gates until the celebrant has stepped from beneath the canopy. It is then put away and the bearers go to their places where they kneel.

The celebrant ascends to the footpace with his/her ministers and places the monstrance on the second corporal. He/she or the deacon then either turns the monstrance round and replaces it on the throne, if celebrating before the Exposed Sacrament, or else removes the Host and replaces It in the tabernacle. If the Sacrament is not exposed, the monstrance is removed to the credence table and veiled. The second corporal is folded and set to one side.

As soon as the celebrant has ascended to the footpace and placed the monstrance on the altar, the thurifer and candle bearers and the cross bearer retire.

The celebrant genuflects and goes to the sedilia to resume the chasuble, returns to the footpace and again genuflects (or, if another has carried the monstrance, he/she now retires and the celebrant returns to the footpace).

The regular course of the Eucharist is now resumed.