

SERVING A LOW MASS IN CORAM SANCTISSIMO

While every Low Mass served has the condition of *in coram sanctissimo*¹ occurring for a short length of time², there are special times when this special condition lasts until the end of Mass (partially), or for even the entire period of Low Mass (*i.e.*, from the beginning until the end). These times occur:

- A. After the distribution of Holy Communion until the end of Mass on these feast days [**partially**]:
 - *Corpus Christi* (for the SSMO procession).
 - *Christ the King* (for the SSMO procession).
 - Holy Thursday (for the *Translation* of the SSMO to the Altar of Reposition).
- B. During the Forty Hours Prayer [**entirely**].

During these times³ the SSMO is either:

- A. In a monstrance on the Altar.
- B. In a pyx or luna on the Altar.
- C. In a ciborium on the Altar (after the Tabernacle has been closed).

GENERAL RULES

Solita oscula⁴

Out of respect for the SSMO, all extraneous reverences that are not considered necessary to the Mass are omitted. Hence, all *solita oscula* usually performed by the servers are omitted.

Turning

If there are two servers, they still continue to turn inwards when they are shoulder to shoulder. However, this action is slightly modified when descending the Altar steps. The servers turn slightly towards each other, and then almost side-step their descent to the Foot. In this way they do not turn their backs to the SSMO when leaving the Predella or the Altar steps.

Bowing

When standing, all prescribed bows for a word or phrase that regards a Person of the Holy Trinity⁵, are directed to the SSMO and not the Tabernacle or Altar Cross.

Gfing

The special rules for gfing while the SSMO is exposed are as follows:

Single knee gf: A single knee gf is made:

1. When crossing the center of the Altar *in actu functionis*⁶.
2. Upon arriving at or leaving from the center of the Foot.

¹ *I.e.*, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (exposed); here after referred to as the "SSMM".

² *I.e.*, from the *Consecration* until the end of the *Distribution of Holy Communion* (which usually terminates with the closing of the Tabernacle). This is why the servers are required to follow the special rules of gfing *in plano* at every Low Mass when descending from the Predella immediately after the *Consecration* action and upon ascending and descending from the Predella before and after receiving Holy Communion.

³ Cf. L. O'Connell, pg. 38, ff. 18, sections a, c and d.

⁴ "with the usual (or customary) kisses"; *solita* = customary; *oscula* = kisses.

⁵ *E.g.*, the Holy Name or a Doxology.

⁶ *I.e.*, during or *in the act of the function*. Outside of the ceremonies, one always makes a double knee gf to the SSMM, as every approach is considered to an *accessus*. Cf. L. O'Connell, pg. 38.

3. **Before** an Acolyte **ascends** to the Predella (made at the Foot *in plano*⁷).
4. **After** an Acolyte **descends** from the Predella (made at the Foot *in plano*).
5. If the Acolyte is standing when a word or phrase is said that requires a gf, then he does so towards the SSMO.

Double knee gf: A double knee gf is only made:

1. When entering or leaving the Sanctuary⁸.
2. When leaving the view of the Altar (*e.g.*, when going to the Communion Rail to turn over the cloth)⁹.

SERVING LOW MASS IN CORAM SANCTISSIMO WITH TWO SERVERS

Low Mass is served as usual with these differences:

PROCESSION

- upon arriving at the Foot, Ac1 does not give the *solita oscula* when taking the biretta from C.
- the Acolytes then make a double knee gf in unison with C.
- after depositing the biretta at the Sedilla (or the Credence), Ac1 does not gf again upon returning to the Foot.

SWITCHING THE MISSAL FOR THE GOSPEL

- after the *Epistle*, when Ac2 goes to switch the missal, he gfs in the center as usual and goes to the Foot on the Epistle side of the Altar.
- when C moves away from the missal, Ac1 turns towards the Altar, gfs *in plano*, ascends and picks up the missal, goes *per brevior* without turning his back to the SSMO (Ac2 almost side-steps his way down), gfs, ascends to the Gospel corner of Altar and puts the missal in position.
- he then takes his usual position within the Altar edges. If the Holy Name is mentioned, Ac2 turns (and Ac1 too) in unison with C and bows *towards* the SSMO exposed. Ac2 then turns right, descends to the Foot *in plano*, turns towards the Altar, gfs and then returns to his position facing the *Gospel* as usual.

AT THE OFFERTORY

- the Acolytes proceed to the Credence and obtain their cruets as usual.
- before immediately ascending, both Acolytes gf *in plano* and then ascend to stand inside the edges of the Altar as usual. Bows are performed as usual, but the customary kisses to the cruets are omitted.
- when the Acolytes have finished serving C for the *Offertory*, they bow to C, and then facing each other, descend to the floor, turn to face the edge of the Foot, gf *in plano*, turn inwards and then return to the Credence.

LAVABO PERFORMED IN PLANO

- the *Lavabo* is performed by C *in plano* at the Epistle side of the Foot, facing the people.
- when the Acolytes have their *Lavabo* items ready, they proceed shoulder to shoulder to the Epistle edge of the Foot, but then swing around to turn and face the back Sanctuary wall (their backs are to people). When completed with this movement, the Acolytes must ensure there is sufficient room between the wall and them for C.
- C then descends to the floor and the *Lavabo* is performed as usual with bows.

⁷ This is the special rule for inferior ministers, as they do not have the privilege to gf on the Predella, as the Sacred Ministers do. This is also prescribed by SRC 3975¹, SRC 4135³, and found in: L.. O'Connell, pg. 38, ff. 18, d, J.B. O'Connell, pg. 364; Callewaert, pg. 28 & 35. Cf. also the *General Principles of Ceremonies* sheets for more details.

⁸ However, "... *if the place of gfion and kneeling would be exactly the same, the gfion would be omitted.*"²³ L. O'Connell, pg. 40 with ff 23 citing: "Callewaert, p. 35." (emphasis in the original text). *I.e.*, a server always gfs on the floor, and so if he were to kneel immediately on the *in plano* for some reason instead of the 1st Altar step, he would omit the gf.

⁹ "One is not said to leave the (sight of) altar when one goes to the credence table, to the sedilla, ...; at such time a double gfion is not required." L.. O'Connell, pg. 38.

-after the *Lavabo* is performed, the Acolytes return the *Lavabo* items to Credence. Ac1 picks up the bells at this time too. Both Acolytes then turn inwards and return to their normal positions as usual.

THE RINGING OF THE ALTAR BELLS AND THE CONSECRATION ACTION

The bells are rung as usual, and the *Consecration* actions are the same as described for a regular Low Mass with this exception:

-after ringing the bells for the *Hanc igitur*, Ac1 picks up the bells, both Acolytes stand, gf *in plano* from their positions (the Acolytes are not required to gf at the center) and then ascend to the Predella.

ABLUTIONS

-when the Tabernacle door has been closed, the Acolytes proceed to the Credence as usual, retrieve their cruets and proceed to the Foot.

-When C tilts the chalice, both Acolytes gf *in plano*, ascend to the 2nd Altar step (Ac1 to the Predella) and perform the *Ablutions* as usual with bows to C¹⁰.

-when the *Ablutions* have been finished, both bow to C and descend from the Predella facing each other, gf *in plano* at the Foot, turn inwards and return to the Credence.

CHANGING THE MISSAL AND VEIL / TURNING OVER THE COMMUNION RAIL CLOTH

-after returning their items to the Credence, both Acolytes turn inwards, proceed to the center of the Foot as usual, gf and then proceed *per longiorem* to their respective sides of the Foot.

-when both Acolytes are facing each other, they gf *in plano*, ascend to the Predella, pick up the missal and the veil, descend *per breviorum* facing each other, gf [for descending and switching sides], and ascend to the Predella.

-after both have deposited their items, they turn outwards and descend *per longiorem* as usual, but having reached the floor, both Acolytes turn to face each other across the Predella, gf *in plano*, then proceed to the center of the Foot, make a double-knee gf, and then go to turn over the Communion Rail Cloths as usual.

-upon returning to the Foot, both Acolytes make a double-knee gf again, switch sides and then return to their normal positions.

LEONINE PRAYERS TO THE RECESSIONAL

-after the *Leonine Prayers*, Ac1 (without gfing) retrieves the biretta.

-when C has descended to the Foot with the Chalice, C and Acolytes make a double knee gfion, Ac1 gives the biretta to C without the *solita oscula* and then all recess out as usual.

¹⁰ Be aware that C has the option to remain in the center for all parts of the *Ablutions*. If this is the case, Ac2 simply ascends to the Predella with Ac1 and performs his parts of the *Ablutions* there.