

Altar Servers

Children or adults in the parish who have received First Communion are welcome to volunteer as altar servers. Responsibilities include preparing and serving at weekend Masses and special liturgies throughout the year. Training is required and provided. (Vili Pilli 907-351-0728)

Here is more information in case you are considering becoming an altar server. The primary role of the altar server is to assist father in the celebration of the liturgy during Mass. This is done through specific actions and by setting an example to the congregation by active participation in the liturgy (hymns, responses, etc.), by looking alert and sitting or standing at the appropriate times.

Servers carry the cross, the processional candle(s), hold the book for the priest celebrant when he is not at the altar, carry the incense and censer, present the bread, wine, and water to the priest during the preparation of the gifts or assist him when he receives the gifts from the people, wash the hands of the priest, assist the priest celebrant and deacon as necessary.

Servers sit in the front row pew on the tabernacle side. Altar servers are expected attend every Mass that they have been scheduled. When you cannot be present please arrange for a replacement.

Altar servers are on duty from the time they enter the sanctuary at the start of Mass until they finish cleanup after the end of Mass and including until the Alb (the robe altar servers wear) is placed back on the hanger. During the Mass their duty station is the sanctuary and a server may not leave the sanctuary except as directed by a priest, deacon or bodily necessity.

Altar servers must have received first confession and Holy Communion Although young people are serving at present adults are welcome also. A parent and child may ask to be scheduled to serve together.

DUTIES BEFORE MASS

Upon arrival, the server should dress in the alb and cincture. **Re: The Archdiocesan Safe Environment Policy – Parents or guardians of altar servers are expected to take turns being downstairs before mass and after when the servers are putting on or taking off their albs or they may designate another adult.**

If there is no sacristan also do the following.

The cruets to be used at the service must be rinsed with clean water before filling.

Fill the bowl and cruet with cold fresh water from the tap and put a fresh towel the towel on the credence table

Five minutes to mass time a server should light all appropriate candles.

DUTIES DURING MASS

In a procession the cross-bearers will lead the procession into and from the sanctuary. After entering the sanctuary, the cross-bearer will bow to the tabernacle (altar if tabernacle is at a side altar) and then proceed to place the cross in its stand, normally facing the priest as the people can all see the central crucifix behind the altar. Never genuflect when carrying anything, including the procession cross.

The candle-bearers follow the cross-bearer in procession and bow to the tabernacle.

During the Glory to God in the Highest (Lord have mercy . . . during lent), the appointed server will pick up the small sacramentary and wait for the priest to say, "Let us pray." When he says, let us pray, server proceeds directly in front of the priest and opens the book to the pre-marked position and hold the book open so the priest can read the prayer. Keep the pages flat, your fingers out of the text and do not move about while the priest is reading. When the priest is finished, close the sacramentary and return it to its place. Sit down in your assigned position for the readings.

All servers sit when people are bringing up their gifts. They then move to the altar and place the baskets back, next to the altar.

The servers should stand when the priest stands and follow him to the center to receive the bread and wine. Father accepts the bread and wine and then hands them to the server.

After the offering:

BELL RINGING - (optional) but we are doing it at present at St. Anthony's.

Three times is done in some parishes in honor of the Trinity; bells rung three distinct times for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. . .

Because the elevation of the Body and Blood of Jesus are solemn times, (the bread and wine we offered has now become the real BODY and BLOOD of our God, Jesus Christ) it is proper to look at the elevated Jesus and say to yourself "My Lord and my God." following the example of Thomas the Apostle.

Closing Prayers:

Sit until the priest says: "Let us pray." If a server is assigned to hold the prayer book, the server will proceed directly in front of the priest and open the prayer book to the proper page, hold the book for the priest as with the opening prayer. When the priest is finished, close the sacramentary and return it to its stand.

All servers should then be standing in their assigned positions and follow along with the people.

Exit Procession:

Cross-bearer should pick up the processional cross. All servers then turn and proceed quickly to their procession positions. All processions are always in order of rank. Cross bearer first, then candle bearers, other servers, lector, extraordinary ministers, deacons, priests, bishops, cardinals, the pope.

DUTIES AFTER MASS

Remove your liturgical clothing and hang it neatly in its proper place. This has been a problem so please pay special attention that the albs are hung securely on hangers.

Parents or guardians are responsible for laundering the albs. The washing machine and dryer in the office may be used if you do not have access to a washer and dryer at home. Please take turns & return the laundered albs the same week after you take them to launder them.