
WORSHIP

Does Your Child Want To Become an Altar Server?

Dear Parents of Prospective Altar Servers:

Monday, June 4, 2018 is the date for the mandatory orientation session for new altar servers. So the time will be here before we know it when you and your child will need to make a decision regarding whether or not he/she would like to join this ministry. Here are some important facts to consider as you decide if becoming an altar server is right for your child and your family. The Altar Server Ministry really is a family affair!

Who can become an altar server?

- The altar server ministry is open to Catholic boys and girls who will be in grades 5–12 by September 2018 and who have been baptized and received their First Communion. We accept youngsters from Catholic schools, private schools, and public schools as well as those who are home schooled. (Experienced servers who have graduated from high school are always welcome to continue as full-time servers!)

What does someone need to do to become an altar server?

- New altar servers **MUST** attend the **mandatory orientation session on Monday, June 4**. The session will begin at 7 p.m., and will last for approximately two hours.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend also. We will have special information to share with you.
- Due to the amount of material covered in the orientation, we **cannot** offer make-up sessions. The session occurs before school lets out for the summer so it does not interfere with vacations.
- At the orientation session, your child will be asked to **sign up for a training session to be held during the month of August**. You will be able to choose among different dates. **Attendance at one of the training sessions is also mandatory.**

When will my child begin serving at Mass?

- After successfully completing the orientation and the training, your child will be assigned to a team. He/she will be added to the fall schedule, which begins on September 1. The schedule will come in the mail.

How are teams arranged?

- Siblings are assigned together. We assign new servers to a team with experienced servers.
- We cannot assign your child to a particular team because friends/neighbors are on that team. We have too many servers to do that. More important, getting to know new people makes our parish and the Altar Server Ministry stronger and builds your child's confidence.

How often will my child serve at Mass?

- Teams typically serve one–two weekends a month. “Mini-teams,” of two to three servers, also serve one–two weekday evening Masses each month. (Saturday morning Masses are also part of the “mini-team” rotation.) Your child also could be asked to serve at a wedding or funeral (if you have given your permission for him/her to do so) or at other special liturgies during the year. We are very grateful for your help at these times.

What if my child cannot attend the Mass for which he/she is scheduled?

- Your child **must** find a substitute for him/herself. Each schedule contains a roster of names and phone numbers. Your child must contact another server from another team to take his/her place.
- Repeated unexcused absences will result in your child being removed from this ministry. We never like to take this step, so please help us in this regard.

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