

St. Joseph Catholic Church Liturgical Ministeries

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers or Acolytes assist in the liturgical action, including carrying the cross at the procession and preparation of the altar at the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- Arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins, and go to the sacristy at the right side door by Mary and Joseph to check in and robe in an alb.
- Take the processional cross and line up at the entrance of the church. If you are not carrying anything, hold a hymnal to sing the opening hymn.
- Once all ministers join with the congregation in singing the first verse of the hymn, hold the processional cross high and lead the procession down the center aisle at a reverent pace. At the altar, all in the procession wait in line. Others will bow, but the cross bearer will not—a simple nod of the head is appropriate. If you are not carrying the cross, bow at the altar. After the lector places the Book of the Gospel on the altar, place the cross on the designated spot and walk to your seat.
- After the Prayer of the Faithful, and all are seated, approach the credence table on the side of the altar and take the corporal and purificators, then chalices and patens, and place on the altar. Make sure you hold all sacred vessels, including chalices and patens, upright (no more than two at a time) and with reverence. With the priest, approach the front of the altar to receive the bread and wine, then accompany priest to the altar table. When the priest is finished with the wine cruet, place it on the credence table, then bring the water basin and pitcher and towel to the priest to wash his hands, and return them when he is finished.
- At the consecration of the bread and wine, after the priest says “Do this in memory of me,” ring the bells steadily for three seconds.

Prayer for Altar Servers:

*Most High and Glorious God,
Help us to be instruments of peace in serving at the table of the Lord.
Where there is hatred let us sow love.
Where there is injury pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is darkness, light.
And where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master help us always to be faithful to you in our service of the community at Mass.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*