



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

2130 Franklin Ave. ✠ Morton, PA 19070

(610) 543-1046 www.OLPHMorton.org

October, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians and Prospective Altar Servers:

I take this opportunity to invite you and your child(ren) to speak about altar serving. Altar serving is open to Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioners who are students in grades 4-8 who attend OLA Regional School or OLPA PREP. High schoolers, college students, and adults are welcome as well! Serving on the altar is certainly a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn responsibility, to get them comfortable being in front of others, and, especially, to grow closer to the Lord. Please realize that having your child serve also constitutes a responsibility on your part to make sure they are at their assigned Mass/service, or have arranged for a substitute. Other considerations are listed on the back of this letter. Please discuss this opportunity with your child, and, if you give permission for your child to serve, please fill out the attached form.

It is expected that all Altar Servers serve a MINIMUM of 1-2 Saturday Evening / Sunday Morning Masses every month. Please take this into consideration before signing your child up to be a Server.

I take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of EVERY CATHOLIC attending Mass regularly each Saturday evening or Sunday morning; it is a mortal sin to miss Mass on a Sunday (or Saturday night) or on a Holy Day of Obligation, unless there is a dire reason.

Altar Server Training will take place in Church on two Sunday afternoons, for one hour each: Sunday, November 2 from 2:15 – 3:15 PM, and Sunday, November 16 from 2:15 – 3:15 PM. All new servers MUST be at **BOTH**** sessions.**

We look forward to having you/your child(ren) serve at Mass! Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brandon M. Artman, *Pastor*

fr.bartman@archphila.org

610-543-1046

Considerations for Altar Serving

Before making a final decision in allowing your child to be an Altar Server, you may wish to engage them in conversation about the responsibilities involved, and the opportunities for growth that are part of this commitment. If your child chooses to serve, with your permission, this decision will also affect you. So you may want to give this some thought yourself as well!

Here are a few thoughts about the **benefits** of being an altar server:

- The obvious spiritual benefit of serving at the altar for a young Catholic is a greater awareness and insight into the meaning and spiritual fruitfulness of the Eucharist, which hopefully translates into a life-long and ever-deepening love of our Lord and reliance upon his grace.
- Altar servers cultivate pride and confidence in themselves as they learn and master the expectations and requirements of serving in front of peers and parishioners.
- The achievement of becoming a competent server contributes greatly to a sense of accomplishment and pride, benefitting many other areas of your child's life.
- Collaborating with peers who may not already be part of his/her circle of friends or classmates can provide the opportunity to make new friends.
- As a server, your child will interact personally and creatively with other adults at the liturgy, such as priests, deacons, sisters, musicians, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, sacristans, adult servers, and others – even a bishop once in a while! – all of whom will have a maturing influence on your child.
- Serving at the altar helps your child grow in the important Catholic values of **service** and **sacrifice**, with an emphasis on **giving back** – reaching out to others, and community service. Altar serving may be used as volunteer/service hours.

Some of the **challenges** of serving are obvious, but precisely because they are challenges, they will help build strong character and a sense of responsibility:

- There may be “inconvenient” times when your child will be scheduled to serve. Such events may require you to transport him/her in the same way you would drive them to other events, such as games or team practices.
- There may be times when your child cannot make a scheduled assignment because of sickness, vacation, family responsibilities, or other factors. Schedules are prepared well in advance so you will have ample opportunity to inform the scheduler of any “unavailable” dates, or change or switch with other servers. Of course, sickness cannot be planned, and an absence due to sickness is understandable.
- Weekend Mass attendance. Unfortunately, this can be a challenge for some families who do not currently attend Mass on a regular basis. However, perhaps you can look at this invitation as a graced opportunity for you and your family to re-commit to regular sacramental participation. ***Altar Servers are expected to serve at least 1-2 Saturday Evening / Sunday Morning Masses per month. A gentle reminder to all that it is a mortal sin to miss Mass on a Sunday or Saturday night or on a Holy Day of Obligation, unless there is a very serious reason.***

Altar Servers are asked to dress appropriately for attending Mass; please, no flip flops or sneakers. Altar Server albs that are worn over Servers' street clothes are white, so please avoid wearing any printed tees.

Thank you for your consideration of having your child serve God and his people as an Altar Server. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Father Artman. God bless you!

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO FATHER ARTMAN AT THE FIRST PRACTICE:
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 at 2:15 PM.**



Server's Name: _____ Grade: _____

My child attends (*please circle*): OLA Regional Catholic School ...or... OLPH Parish PREP ...or... High School
... or ... I am a college student / adult

Yes, I have spoken with my child, and agree that they may be trained and begin to start Altar Serving at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. I understand my responsibility to make sure my child is at their assigned Masses, or that a substitute will be arranged. Servers are asked to please arrive 10-15 minutes before each Mass to get vested and help prepare, and may be asked to stay 5-10 minutes after to help clean up.

I understand that my child is expected to serve a minimum of 1-2 Masses per month on Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings, in addition to weddings and funerals and other special Masses as available.

In addition, I give my consent to having my child appear in photos/videos at other Masses on occasion. These may be made available for access at later times on the parish and/or school websites and/or Facebook pages, or other websites or media. I also understand that phone numbers and email addresses will be made available to other servers' parents in order to assist in obtaining substitutes. I understand that these phone numbers and email addresses are to be kept confidential and are only to be used for this purpose.

Parent/Guardian Name (*please print*)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Altar Server Signature

Best Phone Number: _____ Alternate Phone Number: _____

Email Address (*please print clearly*): _____