

How to be an Acolyte



ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

The Ministry of Acolyte

- God calls everyone in the Church to use the special gifts he has given them with joy and generosity. As you give yourself to this special ministry, know that you also receive God's help and blessing.
- Your service at Mass is called "ministry" because you are serving God and his people by helping the priest and all who worship to praise God in the very best way we can.
- Your ministry has a long tradition. A youth named Samuel served the Jewish priest in the temple over 700 years before Jesus. You can read about him in the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel, Chapter 3.
- Saint Thomas More Church appreciates your service to our parish and to God. We are also grateful for the support of our parents.
- May God bless you as together we lead families in prayer at Mass and at many other celebrations of the Church.

Preparation Before Mass

- Please arrive 15-20 minutes before Mass.
- Have a clean face and clean hands.

Entrance Procession

- Order of the Procession: **Cross, Reader, Acolytes, Priest**
- When the music begins, the usher carrying the cross will start walking. When he reaches the front of the baptismal font, the Reader or Deacon will start walking. When the Reader or Deacon gets to the baptismal font, then you should start walking at a pace a little slower than normal.
- Use your worship aid to sing. Father will follow you.
- When you get to the altar steps, stand in line with the legs of the altar and wait for Father.



- Bow from the waist **WITH FATHER** and then go to your seats.



Entrance Rite

- Listen for the last line of the GLORIA. The acolyte by the credence table should pick up the Sacramentary Book and bring it to Father. Stand in line with (outside) shoulder. Father may move you or touch necessary—this is totally normal. This must be BEFORE Father says, “Let us pray.”
- Stand reverently as Father reads and then return to seat and place the Sacramentary book back on credence table.



Liturgy of the Word

- Sing and respond at the appropriate times.
- Sit quietly with hands folded (*please do not swing your legs or feet*) and listen to the readings and homily.
- PLEASE DO NOT PLAY WITH THE CINCTURE (*rope*).
- If you need a Kleenex and didn't bring any, there is a box in the Rosary Chapel on the window sill.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- When the music starts for the collection, the acolyte closest to the credence table brings up the corporal (*square white cloth with little red cross*) and unfolds it with the cross in the middle of the altar. Next, go back to the credence table and pick up the Sacramentary Book and place it on top of the corporal. Please note this should be done in 2 trips.
- The 2nd acolyte brings up the 4 chalices (*cups*) and the 4 purificators (*napkins*) and lines them up with the candle to the right of the corporal (*square white cloth*). This is also done in 2 trips. Please carry the chalices in separate hands so they don't crash together.
- The acolyte that brought up the corporal and Sacramentary Book can bring the water cruet to the altar and place it on the left side.



- At this time, Father will stand up and go down in front of the altar and receive the gifts (*bread and wine*) from the Gift Bearers and bring them to the altar.
- While Father is blessing the wine and distributing it to the 4 chalices (*cups*), one acolyte should pick up the glass bowl and towel from the credence table and return to the altar area. The other acolyte should pick up the water cruet. You should stand slightly to the left behind Father.



- **AT THE SIGN OF PEACE**, the Sacristan will give you the consecrated hosts in a ciborium (*bowl*) with a lid on it. Bring it up with the other 3 empty ciboria (*bowls*) on the credence table and place them all on the altar.
- One Acolyte remains near the altar by Father's chair and waits for him to give you the LARGE metal bowl that was brought up by the Gift Bearers. Bring it to the credence table then return to your chair.
- Receive Communion and use your worship aid to sing along.
- When the Communion Ministers are finished distributing, be sure to collect the 3 empty ciborium (*bowls*), the corporal (*square white cloth*), and anything else remaining on the altar and return them to the credence table then go to your chair.

Recessional

- When the final song begins, you can move to the front of the altar and collect the baskets.
- Place your worship aid in the top basket and line up with the legs of the altar.

- Wait for Father, then bow with him facing the altar as you did at the beginning of Mass.
- Process out following the cross bearer.

After Mass

- Put the baskets in the Sacristy or give them to the Sacristan.
- Put the worship aid away.
- Hang up your alb (*robe*), cincture (*belt*), and cross.