

Dear Altar Server Parents,

As we enter into the 2019/2020 Church Liturgical year I would like to thank each of you for allowing your children to serve as altar servers. We are blessed here at Our Lady of the Valley with an abundance of very dedicated children (and parents!) in this ministry.

Please note that effective Saturday, November 9 at the 4:30 Vigil Mass and Sunday, November 10 at all Masses we will be making a small change in the duties of the Altar Servers as noted below. **Please discuss this change with your children, as we will not have an opportunity to practice this with them prior to the implementation.** [All new altar servers trained this year and all 5th graders re-trained this year have been given the new instruction]

OLD PROCESS – Presentation of the gifts

After the Chalice (Holy Family and Ambo servers) has been brought to the Altar and the “Book” (Cross Bearer) has been brought to the Altar the Altar servers would go down to the steps in the center and stand on either side of the priest, Cross Bearer on his left, Holy Family and Ambo on his right.

NEW PROCESS – Presentation of the gifts

After the Chalice has been brought to the Altar and the “Book” has been brought to the Altar, the Altar Servers will now walk down and process to the back of the church to escort the gift bearers back to the foot of the Altar. The servers **will not** carry Cross or Candles. They will process to the back just like they came in; being lead by the Cross Bearer, followed by Holy Family and Ambo on either side. Servers will walk with their hands in a position of prayer.



When they arrive in the back of church, they will stop in the same spots where they start at the beginning of Mass. When the priest comes down front to the bottom of the Altar steps, the Cross Bearer will immediately start walking back to the front followed by Holy Family and Ambo. Upon arrival at the front of the Altar, the Cross Bearer will turn and stand to the priest’s left and Holy Family and Ambo will turn and stand to the priest’s right. After receiving the gifts, the altar servers will return to the Altar and Mass continues as usual.

The deacons will be reminding the Altar Servers of this change before Mass but parents, please discuss this change with your children whenever they are scheduled to serve!

Thank you and may God Bless you and your children for your service to this ministry.

Deacon Robert