

Altar Server – Child/Youth

➤ Overview

The Altar Server assists the members of the liturgical assembly by presenting or arranging vessels and other items used in the celebrations. Their reverent and efficient service enable other ministers to attend to their own roles while the liturgical actions unfold with calm, order and appropriate decorum. As members of the assembly who are often visible to all, the Altar Servers also model good liturgical participation.

➤ Activities/Responsibilities

- Assists with the preparation of the sanctuary and sacred vessels before the Liturgy and their proper care afterward.
- Uses and cares for various items used in the Liturgy (cross, candles, incense, sacramentary, etc.).
- Prepares altar or assists in doing so before the presentation of the gifts.
- Assists with books and other altar accessories as needed.
- Responds to special circumstances that may arise during the Liturgy.
- Performs special tasks with dignity and otherwise participates fully as an exemplary member of the assembly.
- Exhibits responsibility by serving when scheduled and taking part in rehearsals.

The Activities/Responsibilities listed above may not completely reflect the ministry performed at this parish. Please refer to the ‘Other Specifics’ box for duties that are specific to this parish.

Other specifics:

➤ Skills, Experience, and Qualifications

- Is a baptized member of the Catholic Church and is already a participant in the Eucharistic Communion.
- Has the necessary skills and sufficient maturity to serve the liturgical assembly as outlined here.
- Has learned to participate fully as a member of the liturgical assembly.
- Has participated in a training process that includes appropriate knowledge of furnishings, vestments, etc.
- Has participated in a training process that prepares the server for the ceremonial procedures of the community.
- Must be ___ years of age or older /OR in grade ___.

➤ **Personal Traits and Qualities**

- Desires to serve the community and to commit time and talents to this ministry.
- Welcomes opportunities to keep growing in understanding and appreciation of the Liturgical Rites, which they help the community to celebrate.
- Has a spirit of generosity.
- Sufficient maturity to focus on the Liturgy and exercise her/his ministry with proper behaviour and attention.

➤ **Orientation and Training**

Standard parish orientation program and altar server training if offered.

➤ **Participant Group**

Other altar servers, the priests, deacons, liturgical ministers and parishioners.

➤ **Support, Supervision, and Evaluation**

The Altar Server Coordinator or _____ is the first level of support, supervision and evaluation.

The parish priest and/or his delegate(s) also exercise this role in their work with Altar Servers.

➤ **Length of Ministry Appointment**

_____ year term.

➤ **Benefits and Working Conditions**

Will directly contribute to the liturgical experience at the Parish.

Will develop team working skills and a greater knowledge of the Liturgy.

This is a volunteer position requiring a time commitment of ___ hours per week/ ___ hours per month.

Must be able to attend the orientation session and training sessions as required.

➤ **Screening Recommendations**

This is a General risk position.

Completion of a Volunteer Information Form is required (which includes parent and/or guardian consent).

Training and orientation are required.

There will be supervision and periodic evaluations.

**This ministry position description accurately reflects the Ministry of Altar Server –
Child/Youth currently practiced at _____.**
(Parish Name)

Parish Volunteer Screening Committee

Pastor

Date

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