



Dear Altar Server:

Welcome to an over 150-year old tradition of serving the Holy Mass at Our Lady of the Lake Church. Your service at the altar helps the entire congregation to focus on the solemnity of the Mass, and you to grow in holiness. In fact, each time you serve, you are living out our motto – Holiness through Service (Sancti Per Ministerium). Altar serving is a privilege, and your service teaches others to give of themselves.

Each server is assigned to a team of at least 3, but usually 4-5 servers. You will serve with this team for the entire year. An older, returning server will be your team captain, who is responsible for helping the Deacon or Liturgical Coordinator assign server positions at each Mass, and making sure that everyone on the team gets a chance to perform the different positions. The team captain also helps to keep everything organized and makes sure that all servers re-hang and leave their albs in good order.

Please keep the following in mind as you serve. Arrive at least 15-20 minutes before Mass begins. Wear clothing that does not distract (bright colors show through the alb), and avoid tennis shoes or sandals. Avoid behavior that distracts the congregation. Keep your hands in prayer position when you are not carrying something. Move deliberately but do not rush. Stay focused on the priest or altar. Treat the albs with care and keep the alb cabinet neat by hanging yours. Speak to the priest, deacon, lector, liturgical coordinator, team captain and other servers with respect. Review the attached liturgical terms and definitions so that you know the names of various items used in the liturgy.

In a few weeks, the 2016-17 weekend Mass server schedule for all altar servers will be circulated. Please post it somewhere convenient or transfer the dates to your calendar. If something prevents you from serving on a weekend, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and let your team captain know.

During the year, you will receive a few written reflections on various aspects of being an altar server. Two reflections from last year are attached. Please take the time to read and think about these during the year.

You are part of a select group, and like your alb at Mass, your red and white t-shirts set you apart when you are away from church. Wear both proudly. You are in my prayers as you grow in holiness through service.

Joe Chautin  
Altar Server Coordinator  
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