



Dear Parents:

Thank you for encouraging and allowing your daughter or son to be an altar server at Our Lady of the Lake Parish. The over-arching goal of altar serving in our Parish is to grow in holiness and in appreciation of the sanctity and beauty of the Eucharistic miracle of each Mass. As Pope Francis recently said to 9,000 altar servers in Vatican Square, *“the closer you are to the altar, the more you will remember to speak with Jesus in daily prayer, the more you will be nourished by the word and the body of the Lord, the better able you will be to go out to others, bringing them the gift that you have received, giving in turn with enthusiasm the joy you have received.”*

While serving is your child’s responsibility, parents play an important role in nurturing their service. I encourage you to review the Welcome and Guide that each server received at training. It includes two reflections especially for them, and during the year, I will distribute others. Please encourage them to read and share their thoughts with you.

The schedule for September 2016 – August 2017 will be distributed in a few weeks. Your server will be assigned to the same team throughout the year, and you will have all dates well in advance. This allows for early coordination of conflicts. Servers are responsible for seeking substitutes. It is not necessary to contact me about such changes, even if a substitute cannot be found. Just have them do their best to find a replacement, focusing on servers on other teams that serve at the same Mass time. During the year, please help your server to arrive at least 15-20 minutes before Mass, and to wear clothing that does not distract, avoiding tennis shoes and sandals.

The Parish relies on parents during the year to (a) help launder the altar server albs, (b) consider and respond to our calls for volunteer servers at our high holiday Masses during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and on some holy days of obligation, (c) help at our festival, and (d) bring to our attention any issue of concern during the year. Thank you in advance.

It is quite a privilege to oversee our altar servers. They inspire me. Share in their joy as they grow in holiness. You and your sons and daughters are in my prayers! May God richly bless you and your family.

Joe Chautin
Altar Server Coordinator
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