



CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION
CATHOLIC CHURCH

LITURGICAL MINISTER GUIDELINES



ALTAR SERVERS

2020 Update



WELCOME

Altar Servers assist the Priests in several ways during the Mass. This is a wonderful way for young people to affirm knowledge of the liturgy and take a more active role in the Mass.

Scripture Reflection

John 12:26

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.



MINISTRY IN CONTEXT

As with all Liturgical Ministries, everything should be done in the context of the Mass itself. As an Altar Server, your role fits into the Mass as follows:

- Before Mass** Arrive at least fifteen minutes early to the Sacristy. Dress in your white alb so that it hits at or above the ankle. You may wear a cincture (belt), if you choose. Put on a wooden cross. Ask the sacristan if you can be helpful in any way. If asked to light the candles, do not be afraid to ask which ones. (Especially during Advent, Christmas, and Easter!) Cross Bearer takes the Cross, Book Bearer takes the Missal. Pray with the other ministers outside of the Sacristy. Join the Procession line at the Church doors.
- Procession** Cross Bearer goes first, followed by the Book Bearer. Father will tell you when to go. When you reach the foot of the sanctuary, the Cross Bearer goes to the left, and the Book Bearer goes to the right. Father goes to the middle. Stop and bow. The Cross Bearer walks up and places the Cross in its stand before going to the left chair while the Book Bearer walks up and goes to the right chair with the Missal.
- Opening Prayer** Father may use the Missal at this point. Be ready to open it!
- Penitential Act or Sprinkling Rite (Easter)**
- Gloria (Ordinary Time, Christmas, and Easter)**

Collect *Father motions for the Missal from the Book Bearer. Stand in front of him as he opens the Missal to the correct page. Hold the Missal out at a comfortable height for the Collect Prayer. Afterward, the Book Bearer places the Missal on the edge of the Altar and all Servers move down to the front pew.*

First Reading/Responsorial Psalm/Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation/Gospel Reading/Homily

Servers return to their seats in the sanctuary after the homily.

Creed/Prayer of the Faithful

Presentation of the Gifts

Servers retrieve the Chalice, Purificators, and filled Communion Cups, placing them on the Altar for Father. They also put away the Book of the Gospels stand. Walk down to the front of the Sanctuary to receive the gifts. Father hands an offering to each server. Place the gifts on the Altar. One Server gets the Cruet of water from the Credence Table and hands it to Father, putting it back when he is done. Servers work together to bring the bowl of water and the towel to Father. Give a small bow, return the towel/bowl, and go to the kneelers.

Eucharistic Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace/Fraction Rite (Lamb of God)/Communion

Return to the chairs in the sanctuary to receive Communion. Once Ministers leave the sanctuary, return to the kneelers. When Communion is over, assist Father as needed and return to the Sanctuary seats. Book Bearer should have the Missal.

Prayer After Communion/Final Prayer/Final Blessing

As with the Collect, the Book Bearer assists for the final Prayers. The Missal may be left on the Altar.

Recession *When the song begins, the Cross Bearer retrieves the Cross. After Father has moved in front of the Altar, all Servers meet him at the foot of the sanctuary. The Book Bearer takes the collection baskets. Process out in the same order as you came in.*

After Mass *Put everything you used back where you first found it. Put your outfit completely away. Extinguish (do not blow out) candles.*

TIPS FOR ALTAR SERVERS

Here are a few helpful pointers to show Reverence in your Ministry:

- **Use your mind!**
 - Remember that God is great and good.
 - Remember that, when we gather together, God is there.
- **Use your heart!**
 - Feel love for God.
 - Feel love for God's people.
 - Pay attention to what you are doing.
- **Use your body!**
 - Show us love and to help us love more.
 - Clean up and look good - this shows that you care.
 - Participate - listen, sing, pray.



LITURGICAL MINISTER DRESS CODE

Conservative – Modest – Polished – Respectful – Versatile

“In him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:28)

Liturgy is **LIVING!** Keep in mind that we **sit, stand, bow, genuflect, and move around** in a variety of ways during Mass. **Clothing choices for Mass should reflect the five points above during every ritual action that we do.**

“Raise your eyes and look...” (Zechariah 5:5)

Liturgical Ministers should remember they are at a height when in the Sanctuary from the vantage point of those in the pews.

“Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour...” (Matthew 25:13)

Remember you may be called upon “in the moment” to minister at weekend Mass! Always **be prepared** and choose clothes to wear for Liturgical Ministry every weekend, even when you are not “on.”