

“The altar server occupies a privileged place in the liturgical celebration. The altar server presents himself or herself to a community and experiences firsthand that Jesus Christ is present and active in every liturgical act.” Pope John Paul II, August 12, 2001, Address to Gathering of Altar Servers

Holy Redeemer Church Altar Server Ministry

Holy Redeemer Church is looking for responsible children from **the third grade through the eighth grade**, who are interested in ministering to our parish as Altar Servers at our Masses.

Altar Server Training for NEW SERVERS & re-training for current 3rd Grade servers will be held during recess.

FOR ALL NEW ALTAR SERVERS:

Parents, please fill out the following form and return to the Office of Religious Education.

Family Name: _____

Server Name _____ Grade _____

Server Name _____ Grade _____

Address: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

e-mail Address _____

Please rank ALL of the Masses from 1st choice to 4th choice reflecting your preference.

5 p.m. Mass: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Choice (Circle one)

8 a.m. Mass: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Choice (Circle one)

10 a.m. Mass: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Choice (Circle one)

12 noon Mass: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Choice (Circle one)

“In liturgy, the altar server is much more than a “simple helper of the parish priest”. Above all, you are servers of Jesus Christ, the eternal high priest.”

Pope John Paul II, August 12, 2001, Address to Gathering of Altar Servers

What does it mean to be an Altar Server?

- Altar Servers must be responsible practicing Catholics who have received their First Eucharist.
- Scheduled Altar Servers are to arrive to the vesting area of the church at least 15 minutes before the start of Mass to sign in, to get instructions from the presider, to get vested, and to participate in the pre-Mass prayer with the presider and other servers.
- Altar Servers, both scheduled and unscheduled, are to dress appropriately for Mass in order to show proper reverence for the Mass and to demonstrate the dignity of their ministry. This means wearing dress slacks (or skirts for the ladies) and dress shoes. Jeans, sneakers, and flip-flops are not appropriate dress for the Altar Server Ministry.
- Occasionally a scheduled Altar Server may fall ill or for *another good reason* be unable to serve their scheduled Mass. In a pinch, a replacement may be needed. It is the responsibility of ALL Altar Servers, both those scheduled and those not, to make sure that each Mass is properly covered with Altar Servers. If the presider is in need, Altar Servers are challenged to use their initiative to volunteer.
- If an Altar Server is unable to serve a Mass, it is his or her responsibility to recruit a replacement.
- Occasionally, Holy Redeemer has special Masses and liturgies such as for Holy Days of Obligation, national holidays, Holy Week, funerals, etc. Altar Servers should be open to being called upon to serve in these instances.
- We will do our best to accommodate the Mass requests of Altar Server families and to take into consideration those families who are performing other liturgical ministries at Masses. However, Altar Servers may on occasion be called upon to serve at Masses other than their first choice.
- Altar Servers are to conduct themselves with dignity and reverence while in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and while serving in their ministry, properly keeping their hands folded and refraining from excessive fidgeting.
- Altar Server schedules are distributed quarterly and can also be found on the School and Mezzanine Bulletin Board and in the Holy Redeemer Church Bulletin.

For ALL Altar Servers:

I hereby agree that I have read the information above and understand what my ministry requires. I (re)commit to the Altar Server Ministry at Holy Redeemer Church. I will act responsibly and will conduct myself with the dignity and reverence that my ministry requires.

Altar Server signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

For Parents:

I hereby give my permission for my child's name, grade, home phone number, and family e-mail address to be distributed to current Altar Server families in the form of an Altar Server Directory.

Parent signature: _____

“Your commitment to the altar is not only a duty, but a great honor, a genuine holy service.”
Pope John Paul II, August 12, 2001, Address to Gathering of Altar Servers