

Altar Servers

What does this ministry/group do?

Altar Servers assist the presider and other ministers in maintaining a smooth flow of the liturgical ritual

How many volunteers are needed?

Two altar servers are needed at each Mass

What is the time commitment?

- Check in 20 minutes prior to Mass; snuff candles and store robe afterwards
- Frequency depends on the total number of volunteers

Who is invited to participate?

- Youths grade 5 and older who have received First Holy Communion and have support at home to assist with transportation and communication/scheduling
- Adults who are confirmed, practicing Catholics

What skills/gifts are required?

Ability to move and act reverently, thereby keeping focus on the Eucharistic celebration

What training is provided?

Training includes a short overview followed by a complete walkthrough at church, and a written, step-by-step handout guide. After the training session, you will be paired with an experienced altar server as your confidence builds.

Music Ministry - Choir

What does this ministry do?

- The choir leads, animates, and encourages the full participation of the congregation in song, including the prayers and responses of the liturgy
- Members of the choir who are available on weekday mornings often participate in the music ministry for Funeral Masses

How many are needed?

Many singers per Mass

What is the time commitment?

- The choir arrives one hour before each Mass to prepare for the liturgy
- Attend regular rehearsals which are held most Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8 PM from September through May
- Additional rehearsals are sometimes required in preparation for solemnities and feasts of the church year
- Singers may be assigned “homework” to learn their part of the music and come prepared for rehearsal

Who is invited to participate?

Singers of all ages who possess the vocal abilities required

What skills or gifts are required?

- Good vocal range, tone, pitch, rhythm and ability to sing in ensemble with others. Each choir member contributes to the overall beauty of the liturgical music by singing an assigned vocal part correctly.
- Ability to read music and learn music independently admired but not required

Eucharistic Ministers

What does this ministry/group do?

Ministers of the Eucharist distribute the Body and Blood of Christ

How many volunteers are needed?

3-4 Eucharistic Ministers are needed at each Mass, with more needed at special liturgies

What is the time commitment?

- Arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass to check in
- Frequency is dependent on the total number of volunteers

Who is invited to participate?

- Confirmed, practicing Catholics
- Those who have the ability to navigate the altar stairs

What skills/gifts are required?

None

What training is provided?

There will be initial training for new eucharistic ministers with annual training as a refresher. Training will include both the “choreography” of communion distribution as well as a deeper understanding of the journey from unconsecrated bread to the Body of Christ with a visit to the sacristy, tabernacle, and altar.

Greeters

What does this ministry/group do?

These Ministers of Hospitality warmly welcome all who gather for liturgy. Greeters make a special effort to reach out to newcomers and visitors, creating an important first impression as they represent the parish, and, for some, the Catholic church. Greeters are informed and can answer questions about the parish and direct people to the appropriate resource.

How many volunteers are needed?

2 greeters are needed for each Mass

What is the time commitment?

- Arrive 30 minutes prior to Mass
- Frequency is dependent on the total number of volunteers

Who is invited to participate?

All are welcome, especially couples and families

What skills/gifts are required?

A gift for hospitality

What training is provided?

There will be initial training for greeters, with annual training as a refresher

Music Ministry - Instrumentalist

What does this ministry do?

Enhance liturgical music with their gift of instrument mastery

How many are needed?

Many are welcome

What is the time commitment?

- Frequency is variable and flexible
- Rehearse one hour before Mass along with cantor/choir when scheduled
- Additional rehearsal during the week may be required, especially for feasts and solemnities of the church
- Individual remote rehearsal and preparation during the week will vary according to the complexity of the music and the skill set of the musician

Who is invited to participate?

Musicians of all ages who have more than two years of ensemble experience

What skills or gifts are required?

- Auditions required
- Demonstrate the ability to sight read music and play in tune and in tempo
- Depending on the instrument, transpose from a C instrument score

Lectors

What does this ministry do?

The lector proclaims the Word of God in the first and second readings of the Mass and leads the Prayers of the Faithful

How many are needed?

One or more lector(s) per Mass

What is the time commitment?

- Since this ministry involves much more than mere public speaking or reading a story, time needs to be spent throughout the week reading and praying over the sacred scripture, studying the meaning, the historical context, and the inspiration and revelation given to you. A lector workbook is provided for this purpose.
- Check in 15 minutes before Mass
- Frequency is dependent on the total number of lectors

Who is invited to participate?

Confirmed, practicing Catholics

What skills or gifts are required?

- Auditions required
- Demonstrate the ability to proclaim the Word of God effectively, with meaning, conviction and clarity

What training is provided?

Lectors attend semi-annual training sessions to develop a relationship with the Word of God and to rehearse skills of proclamation

Sacristans

What does a sacristan do?

The sacristan arrives early to prepare the church for liturgy. The sacristan turns on the lights and sound system, sets out the Sacred Vessels, prepares the unconsecrated hosts and wine, sets out the liturgical books, and lights the candles. The sacristan makes sure all liturgical ministers are checked in and communicates with them, as necessary. After the liturgy, replace the items used at Mass, wash the Sacred Vessels, and close the church.

How many volunteers are needed?

One sacristan is needed for each Mass

What is time commitment?

- The sacristan arrives 30-45 minutes before Mass and remains for another 15-30 minutes after Mass
- Frequency depends on the total number of volunteers

Who is invited to participate?

- Confirmed, practicing Catholics

What skills are required?

- It is necessary to have knowledge of the Order of the Mass, show reverence for the sacredness of the Sacred Vessels and Body and Blood of Christ, and give positive witness to the Christian Life.
- Although it is not necessary to have been active in all other ministries (altar server, lector, eucharistic minister, greeter, or usher) it is critical to understand the duties of each ministry

What training is provided?

The sacristan duties are described in the Sacristan Procedure. After reviewing the procedure and discussing it with the head sacristan, the new sacristan follows and observes an experienced sacristan for two or more Masses. Once comfortable, the roles are reversed: an experienced sacristan follows the new sacristan for two or more Masses. Once the new sacristan is comfortable with the assignment, the sacristan enters the scheduling program and begins actively serving as a sacristan.

Ushers

What does this ministry/group do?

Ushers take up the collection and bear gifts to the altar. They are trained in safety procedures and help take the lead in case of health or safety emergencies. They occasionally take on additional duties for special liturgies.

How many volunteers are needed?

4 ushers are needed each Mass

What is the time commitment?

- Arrive 15 minutes prior to Mass and check in
- Frequency is dependent on the total number of volunteers

Who is invited to participate?

All are welcome

What skills/gifts are required?

None

What training is provided?

There will be initial training for ushers, with annual training as a refresher. Training includes basic first aid and what to do in an emergency.