

THE COMPLETE ALTAR SERVER GUIDE



THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

*Discover Those Who Serve at the Altar
and the Role of Each One*



THE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

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POPE

The successor of Saint Peter and supreme pastor of the universal Catholic Church. As the Vicar of Christ on earth, the Pope guides all the faithful of the world with authority and love, confirming his brothers in the faith and safeguarding the unity of the Church.



BISHOP

The successor of the Apostles and the pastor responsible for guiding a diocese. The bishop ordains priests, administers the Sacrament of Confirmation, and shepherds his community. He is the visible sign of the unity of the Church within his territory and the teacher of the faith for his people.



PRIEST

Celebrates the Holy Mass, administers the sacraments, and spiritually guides the parish community. He is the pastor closest to the faithful in their daily lives, representing Christ as priest, prophet, and king in the midst of his people.



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DEACON

An ordained minister who assists the priest in liturgical celebrations and serves the poorest members of the community. The deacon proclaims the Gospel, preaches the homily, and distributes Communion, serving as a visible sign of Christ the servant among his people.



ACOLYTE

A ministry officially instituted by the bishop. The acolyte permanently assists the priest at the altar, preparing the sacred vessels for the Eucharistic celebration and distributing Holy Communion as an extraordinary minister.



LECTOR

A ministry officially instituted by the Church, whose function is to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of the Word. The lector prepares the proclamation through prayer and study to convey the Word of God with clarity and devotion.



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ALTAR SERVER

The Altar Server is a young servant of the altar who assists the priest during liturgical celebrations with dedication and love. They carry the processional cross, bring the cruets, ring the bells, and accompany every moment of the Holy Mass with deep reverence. Their service is a concrete and beautiful way of loving God.



WHY BE AN ALTAR SERVER?

Serving at the altar is a sacred privilege and a special vocation. Through this ministry, young people learn to love the Holy Eucharist, deepen their understanding of the mysteries of faith, and grow in virtue. Many priests and religious around the world began their journey of faith by serving in their local parishes.



A VOCATIONAL FUN FACT

Did you know that Saint John Paul II, Saint Pius X, and the young martyr Saint José Sánchez del Río all began their journey by serving as Altar Servers? The altar is truly a school of holiness, where God calls many young hearts to a lifetime of self-giving and love.