

Growing Your Child in the Altar Serving Ministry  
 Session 1 – Expectations and Server Meet and Greet

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Opening Prayer
Introductions
<p><b>Why is there a need for workshops?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes in procedure when priests are concelebrating and deacons of the cup.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ purifying the mass chalice during communion.</li> <li>○ Bowing as Father genuflects to the altar after the elevation of the body and blood of Christ.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• teamwork</li> </ul>
<p><b>How is your child doing as a server?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do they want to be up on the sanctuary during mass?</li> <li>• Do they feel comfortable when serving?</li> <li>• Do they want to help?</li> <li>• Do they have focus when it is needed?</li> <li>• Most importantly – do they show joy?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Time commitment</b>          Each time your child is scheduled to serve requires up to two hours.</p>
<p>Before mass:          20 to 30 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sign in</li> <li>• vesting and assigning of duties</li> <li>• review duties if needed</li> </ul>
<p>15 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• find replacement servers for any missing</li> <li>• final assignment of duties</li> </ul>
<p>10 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• servers collect the candles and cross from the altar.</li> </ul>
<p>5 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pray</li> <li>• line up for procession</li> </ul>
<p>Participation in the mass:          Could be longer than an hour if we are celebrating sacraments other than the Eucharist. i.e. baptism, marriage blessings</p>
<p>After mass:          15 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clean up duties</li> <li>• debrief and answer any questions servers may have</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future items / ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recording all children that are on time (20 to 30 minutes before mass). At the end of six months the servers with the most stickers will select the pizza for a pizza party.</li> <li>• Servers of the month</li> <li>• possibility – skating party in January.</li> <li>• mini training sessions on specific topics followed by pizza</li> <li>• Lessons learned package for parents (see last page of handout)</li> </ul>

**Manual – Guide for Altar Servers**

Sections:

- pink – general information for all servers, postures and gestures
- purple – duties specific to each position – candle bearer, altar server, book and cross
- orange – key parts of the mass. Procession, offeratory, communion, recession.
- white – reference section with pictures of items used during the mass, the mass with complete instructions and definitions.

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What is your child learning during this session?

### Introductions

- Will be given a name tag of another child. Must find the matching child and find out three things about them.
- Examples:
  - How long have they been serving?
  - Why do they like serving or why do they want to start serving?
  - Favourite activity or sport?

Series of activities:

### Station 1: Candle Relay

- Requires:
  - Three pairs of servers
  - Candles – cardboard candles with feathers for flames
- One pair at each section of the relay. Team must carry the candle to the next pair without dropping the feathers.
- Waiting pairs (2 and 3) should be standing in the proper manner. Standing tall – hands in prayer



- Must be walking side by side with the candles held and the same level.
- Don't walk too fast – if they lose a feather they must start over.
- When the pair reaches the relay point they turn into each other (mirror image) and pass the candles to the next pair.
- Teaches:
  - Gestures and postures.
  - Speed for carrying the processional candles
  - Working in pairs

### Station 2: Items of the Mass

1. Chalice
2. Ciborium
3. Pyx
4. Cincture
5. Paten
6. Purificator
7. Pall
8. Aspergillum
9. Extinguisher
10. Corporal

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### Station 3: Setting the Table / Altar

- Done in pairs
- One server setting the table for dinner as the second server sets the altar. Steps should be done at the same time (i.e. Put down the place mat, then the corporal).
- Setting the altar is like setting the table for dinner at home. Receiving the Eucharist is a meal for your soul.

Family Meal	Mass
Place Mat	Corporal in centre
	Pall to the top right
Large plate in the centre	Paten in the centre of the corporal
Glass to the top right	Chalice to the right of the corporal
Napkin on the right under the knife and fork	Purificator leaning against the chalice
Small plate to the top left	Pyx to the left of the paten

### Station 4: Order of the Mass

Cut at dotted lines

<b>Introductory Rites</b>	<b>Procession</b> Entrance Song with procession into the church	<i>Candle bearers and cross bearer place the candles and cross in their stands on the sanctuary. All ministers fan out and bow to the altar with Father.</i>
	<b>Sign of the Cross</b> We call upon the Holy Trinity	<b>In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit</b>
	<b>Greeting</b> We are welcomed in God's name	<i>Father calls the children forward for Children's Liturgy</i>
	<b>Penitential Rite / Confiteor</b> We express sorrow for our sins	<b>I confess to almighty god, and to you, my bothers and sisters...</b>
	<b>Kyrie</b> We ask Jesus for Mercy	<b>Lord, have mercy...</b>
	<b>Gloria</b> We praise God	<b>Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth...</b> <i>Book bearer brings the Sacramentary book to Father at the end.</i>
	<b>Opening Prayer</b> We join in prayer together	<i>Book bearer returns the Sacramentary book to the credence table.</i>

<b>Liturgy of the Word</b>	<b>First Reading</b> God speaks to us through the prophets	
	<b>Responsorial Psalm</b> We respond to God's word	
	<b>Second Reading</b> God speaks to us through the apostles	
	<b>Gospel Acclamation</b> We praise Jesus who comes to speak to us	<i>Candle bearers process to the altar with the candles to meet Father and then process to the ambo.</i>  <i>Altar servers should check the ambo to make sure the lectionary book has been moved to the shelf.</i>
	<b>Gospel</b> God speaks to us through Christ	<b>The Lord be with you – And also with you.</b> <b>A reading from the holy gospel according to ...</b>
	<b>Homily</b> God speaks to us through the Priest	After Father has finished his homily, he sits in his chair and silently reflects. <i>The book bearer will wait a moment before bringing the Sacramentary book to Father after the homily.</i>
	<b>Profession of Faith</b> We profess our faith	<b>I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, ...</b>
	<b>Prayer for the Faithful</b> We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ	<b>Response – Lord hear our prayers</b>
<b>Liturgy of the Eucharist</b>	<b>Offertory</b> Gifts of the people	<i>Candle bearers light the altar candles.</i> <i>Cross bearer sets the altar.</i> <i>Book bearer places the Sacramentary book and stand on the altar.</i> <i>All servers join Father at the bottom of the steps to receive the gifts.</i>
	<b>Preparation of the Gifts</b> We place the bread on the altar.  We place the wine on the altar.	<b>Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.</b> <b>Through your goodness we have this bread to offer...</b>  <i>Altar servers bring the wine and water cruet to the altar.</i> <i>Servers bring the bowl and water jug to Father for the washing of his hands.</i>
	<b>Invitation to Prayer</b> We ask God to accept our sacrifice	<b>Pray, brethren, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father...</b>

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<p><b>Prayer Over the Gifts</b>          We pray for God's Grace</p>	<p><i>Prayers are different for each day...</i></p>
<p><b>Eucharistic Prayer</b></p>	<p><b>Lord, you are holy indeed,          the fountain of all holiness.          Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make          them holy,          so that they may become for us          the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.</b></p>
<p><b>Holy, Holy, Holy</b>          We praise God in union with the Angels</p>	
<p><b>Words of institution</b>          The bread and wine becomes Christ's Body          and Blood</p>	<p><b>Before he was given up to death,          A death he freely accepted,          He took bread and gave you thanks.          He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and          said:          Take this, all of you, and eat it:          This is my body which will be given up for you...</b></p> <p><i>Cross bearer rings the bells when the host and wine          are elevated. All servers bow to the altar when          Father genuflects.</i></p>
<p><b>Memorial Acclamation</b>          We proclaim the mystery of our faith</p>	<p><b>Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.</b>          Christ has died,          Christ is risen,          Christ will come again.</p>
<p><b>Great Amen</b>          We give our assent to all that has taken place</p>	<p><b>Through him,          with him,          in him,          in the unity of the Holy Spirit,          all glory and honor is yours,          almighty Father,          for ever and ever.</b></p> <p>Amen</p> <p><b><i>Servers should be ready to join Father at the altar          at the end of the prayer.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Lord's Prayer</b>          We speak to God our Father in the words          Jesus taught us</p>	<p><b>Our Father, who art in heaven,          Hallowed be thy name;          Thy kingdom come;          Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...</b></p>
<p><b>Sign of Peace</b>          We offer a sign of peace to each other</p>	<p><b>Let us offer each other the sign of peace.</b></p> <p><i>All servers share the sign of peace. Ciborium          transferred from the credence table to the altar.</i></p>

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	<p><b>Breaking of the bread</b>  <i>We ask for mercy and peace</i></p>	<p><b>Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:          have mercy on us...</b></p> <p><i>Servers receive the Eucharist from Father, but do not consume it yet.</i></p>
	<p><b>Communion</b>  <i>We ask God to make us worthy to receive communion</i></p> <p><b>We receive Jesus!</b></p>	<p><b>This is Jesus! This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.</b></p> <p><i>Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,          But only say the word and I shall be healed.</i></p> <p><i>Servers consume the Eucharist when Father does.</i></p> <p><i>After receiving the Blood of Christ all servers join a Eucharistic minister for Amen Patrol (saying Amen on behalf of the community).</i></p> <p><i>Altar servers and book bearer help to clean up the altar after communion.</i></p>
	<p><b>Prayer after Communion</b>  <i>We ask for the Grace of Communion</i></p>	<p><i>After the altar is cleaned, Father may have some closing announcements.</i>  <i>Book bearer brings the Sacramentary book to Father.</i></p>
<b>Concluding Rite</b>	<p><b>Blessing</b></p>	<p><i>After the blessing, the book bearer moves beside Father at the end of the chairs.</i></p>
	<p><b>Dismissal</b>  <i>We are sent out to bring Christ to others</i></p>	<p><b>Book bearer waits until Father is walking to kiss the altar “good-bye” before returning the Sacramentary book to the credence table.</b></p>
	<p><b>Recession</b></p>	<p><i>The cross bearer and candle bearers gather the cross and candles and stand behind Father in the center aisle facing the altar.</i></p> <p><i>All remaining servers bow to the altar with Father. Cross bearer and candle bears “head bow”.</i></p> <p><i>Process out.</i></p>

**What to bring for the next sessions?**

For session two through four – altar serving manual

Session Three – one non-perishable food item. Will be donated to Saint Vincent de Paul.