

Altar Server Dos and Don'ts

Beginning the first week of Advent (Weekend of December 2), the special training you received will go into effect formally. That includes using the chairs and kneelers provided for you. Below are some important things to remember:

DO	DON'T
Arrive on time (15 minutes before mass) and sign in.	Make us have to take you off the schedule.
Be dressed according to the dress code.	Make us have to remind over and over and over
Light the candles and take the gifts to the back table right away.	Stand around waiting for someone to ask you to do that.
Process in S-L-O-W-L-Y.	Rush!
GENUFLECT if you are not carrying anything.	Genuflect if you are carrying crosses or candles or whatever.
Sit up straight and pay attention to what is going on in the mass. Have your hands on your knees when seated and straight up when standing.	Slouch in the chair or lean against the wall or look like you'd rather be somewhere else. Fold your arms across your chest or play with your fingers or the cincture.
Carry the veiled chalice to the altar by holding the stem under the veil and place it in the center of the altar.	Grab the stem around the veil or place it at the side.
Place all of the other vessels on the far right side of the altar (the side nearest the pulpit).	Place the rest of the vessels near the center of the altar.

Stand near the celebrant to accept the gifts.	Stand far away.
Hand the cruets of wine and water to the chalice preparer with the handles facing him.	Hold the handles so that the chalice preparer has to grasp the cruet itself.
Hold the towel for the celebrant by the corners so that it is open wide.	Approach with the towel folded on your hands.
Leave the sanctuary after the final blessing and proceed immediately to the aisle to wait for the celebrant.	Wait or stop in front of the altar.
Recess S-L-O-W-L-Y	RUSH

It is very important that you review the server handbook to make sure that you are serving properly.

I have noticed that many of you are not waiting for Father to bow and bowing back to him after handing off the cruets or the washing of the hands. Remember that this is an important part of our serving ritual.

There are new cinctures hanging on the hook in the server's sacristy. They are longer so you need to make sure that they are not dragging on the floor. Fold the cincture in half and wrap it around your waist twice if necessary before tying it. (See the handbook for the easy way to tie it).

Male servers 8th grade and above should begin to vest in the cassock and surplices that are hanging in the closets. If for some reason you cannot find one of the cassocks to fit you (either too

short or too long) wear an alb and notify me immediately after mass 630-355-5401; then we will decide what size will be good for you to wear and order new sizes as needed.

Female servers 8th grade and above will continue to wear the white alb for serving but special *GOLD* cinctures have been ordered for you and should be in the sacristy soon. You should wear the *GOLD* cincture rather than white as soon as they are available.

All other servers will continue to wear the alb using the white cincture