

Welcome St. Didacus Parish Altar Servers!

Thank you for volunteering for the Altar Server ministry of St. Didacus Parish. Scheduling is usually done two months at a time and a server will typically serve 1-2 times each scheduling period, depending on how many servers are available for each specific Mass. S1 is server 1. S2 is server 2.

Below is a list of duties for Altar Servers. Please go over these before your first serving date and keep them handy to refer to in the future.

Arrival time: Please arrive, dressed appropriately, 10-15 minutes before your scheduled Mass and report to the sacristy.

Attire: To know what color rope to wear with your robe, check to see what color robes the priest is wearing. Purple for Advent and Lent, White for Christmas/special feast days, Green for Ordinary Time. There will always be a sacristan on duty to help!

Procession: The cross carrier, S2, leads unless incense is used and then incense goes first. When you arrive at altar, step to the sides to leave room for priest/deacon or lector in the middle. Genuflect if not carrying anything and go stand at your seat near the door to the sacristy. The cross bearer returns it to its holder and returns to seat.

Opening Prayer: When the priest says "Let us pray," S1 gets the book off the table next to priest and holds it (high) up in front of him.

Preparing the Altar (done during the collection):

1. S1 gets Sacramentary (red book) from the table beside priest and places the Sacramentary on altar, on the left. Then takes the wooden book stand from altar to the table against the wall.
2. S2 takes the chalice and cups from the side table and lay out the Corporal (large napkin) in the middle of the altar. Place plate in the middle, chalice in the right hand corner; remove purificators (napkins) from inside the cups and lay in front of the cups.
3. Return to seat, remain standing and wait for gifts to be brought up.

Receiving Gifts:

1. Servers are to stand behind priest when gifts are being brought up.
2. Server taking the hosts will go to the altar and place it on the corporal. Take it to the altar, and remove the lid
4. S2 taking the wine should stand next to the altar and wait for Father. S1 should get the water and wait with S2. S2 will take the lid off the wine and holds it with handle facing Father. After Father is done, he will hand it back then take the water (handle first) and return it.
5. Servers go back but should be ready with water (S1), bowl and towel (S2) ready for Father to wash his hands.
6. After this prepare to kneel on the pad at the altar when congregation kneels.

After Communion:

1. After communion S1 will have water ready for Eucharist Ministers and Father's chalice. S2 need to stand up and be ready to take chalice and plates and return them to side table.
2. S1 should return the book from the altar to table near priest's seat

Final Blessing:

1. S1 will walk over to Father and hold the book for him.
2. S2 will get the cross (leads procession out)
3. Following Father's lead, all servers will line up at the altar to genuflect and then proceed out.