



Ministry Position: Altar Server – Child/Youth

Date Last Reviewed: July 2019

◆ Position Overview

The Altar Server assists the members of the liturgical assembly by presenting or arranging vessels and other items used in the celebrations. Their reverent and efficient service enable other ministers to attend to their own roles while the liturgical actions unfold with calm, order and appropriate decorum. As members of the assembly who are often visible to all, the altar servers also model good liturgical participation.

◆ Activities/Responsibilities

- Assist with the preparation of the sanctuary and the proper care of sacred vessels before and after the Liturgy
- Use and care for various items used in the Liturgy (cross, candles, incense, sacramentary, etc.).
- Prepare altar or assist in doing so before the presentation of the gifts
- Assist with books and other altar accessories as needed
- Respond to special circumstances that may arise during the Liturgy
- Perform special tasks with dignity and otherwise participates fully as an exemplary member of the assembly
- Exhibit responsibility by serving when scheduled and taking part in rehearsals

◆ Skills, Experience and Qualifications

- Is a baptized member of the Catholic Church and is already a participant in the Eucharistic Communion
- Demonstrates the necessary skills and sufficient maturity to serve the liturgical assembly
- Has learned to participate fully as a member of the liturgical assembly
- Has participated in a training process that includes appropriate knowledge of furnishings, vestments, etc.
- Has participated in a training process that prepares the server for the ceremonial procedures of the community
- Must be 9 years of age or older /OR in grade 3.

◆ Personal Traits and Qualities

- Desires to serve the community and to commit time and talents to this ministry
- Welcomes opportunities to keep growing in understanding and appreciation of the Liturgical Rites
- Sufficient maturity to focus on the Liturgy and exercise her/his ministry with proper behaviour and attention.
- Demonstrates a spirit of generosity



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◆ **Screening Requirements**

This is a General Risk Position

Before volunteering begins:

- Complete a Volunteer Application Form
 - This form includes parent and/or guardian permission to participate
- Complete appropriate training and orientation

After volunteering begins:

- There will be supervision and periodic evaluations

Note: When an Adult 18 + years of age participates (serves) in mass/events with youth under 18, high risk screening is required for all adults.

◆ **Orientation and Training**

Standard parish orientation program, including AODA training. and Altar Server training if offered.

◆ **Support, Supervision and Evaluation**

The Altar Server Coordinator or designate is the first level of support, supervision and evaluation. The parish priest and/or his delegate(s) also exercise this role in their work with Altar Servers.

Prepared by: Archdiocese of Toronto, Volunteer Screening Department