

Altar Serving at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

Any student (4th grade and up) is invited to serve our parish as an altar server. Training typically takes place in the Spring or early Summer. If anyone in your family (4th grade and up) is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact our office at (570) 288-6446 or talk to one of our priests. We'd love to have you! Here's what our servers do:

- Check the monthly schedule to see when you are assigned to serve
- If you are unable to serve that day, call the rectory at (570) 288-6446 or find a replacement.
- Arrive in the sacristy (back room) 15 minutes before the beginning of mass
- Find a server's alb (robe) that fits and the proper colored cincture (rope belt)
- Take the processional cross or candles and go to the back of the church with the priest
- Lead the procession to the altar as soon as people start singing in the beginning of mass.
- Bow your head slightly at the foot of the altar, put the cross/candles in their place and go to your seat
- When the priest says "Let us pray" bring him the small missal (book)
- As soon as the prayer of the faithful (the part where we pray for specific people and things) is over, go to the credence table and bring the things the priest will need to the altar—the missal (book), the chalices (cups), and the corporals/purificators (napkins).
- When the priest goes to the foot of the altar to receive the gifts go with him and help bring back the bread, wine, and collection.
- Go to the credence table, take the tops off of the water and wine, and bring them both to the priest. Return them to the credence table.
- Bring the pitcher, bowl, and towel to the priest and pour the water over his hands. Return them to the credence table.
- After the priest shows the body and blood of Christ and everyone says "Lord I am not worthy to enter under your roof...", bring the ciboria (bowls) from the credence table to the altar.
- After everyone is finished receiving communion, help the priest clear the altar.
- When the priest says "Let us pray" bring him the small missal (book)
- After the priest gives the final blessing (and says "go in peace...") take the cross/candles and wait for him next to your seat.
- After the priest goes to the altar and kisses it, begin the procession out.
- Once you reach the back of the church, you can return to the sacristy (back room), change, and go home!
- If you feel unsure or have any questions, just ask, nobody will be mad at you. We want you to be comfortable and happy when you are serving, not nervous.

Terms to Know

Alb- the white robe we wear at mass

Altar- the table in the center of the sanctuary where we celebrate the Eucharist

Chalice- the cup that contains the wine and then the blood of Christ

Ciborium/ciboria- the bowls we use to distribute and store the Eucharist

Cincture- the rope belt servers and the priest wear

Corporal-the cloth placemat

Missal- the book the priest uses

Purificator-the cloth napkin with a cross on it that is used to clean the sacred vessels at mass

Sacristy-the back room where the priest, readers, and servers prepare for mass

Sanctuary-the whole area in the front of the Church where the priest and servers sit during mass.

Tabernacle- the golden box to the left where we keep the Eucharist