

St Anthony's Church

5340 4th Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta
Phone: (403) 253-1137 Fax: (403) 255-7796
www.stanthonyscalgary.com

MINISTRY OF ALTAR SERVERS

(Updated December 2019)

PREPARATION BEFORE MASS:

Arrive at least 15 minutes before the Liturgy is scheduled to start. Hang your coat on the coat rack. Make sure your hands are clean (including artwork). Vest in your cassock, cincture and cross. Return hanger to its place. Recite the *Prayer seven minutes before mass* with the other ministers.

Reverence to the Blessed Sacrament is by genuflection as you enter and leave the church or as you cross the Tabernacle for any reason.

THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION, starting at the back of the sanctuary, is as follows:

Cross-bearer, Candles, other Servers, Reader(s), Eucharistic Ministers, Priest(s)
Each server should walk two paces behind the one in front. When candles are in procession, the candle-bearers walk beside or close behind the cross-bearer. Upon reaching the sanctuary steps, do not bow, the Candle bearers proceed to place their candles in between the Ambo and go to their seats. Cross-bearer secures the Cross on the designated slot and goes to his seat.

OPENING RITES/LITURGY OF THE WORD

Answer all responses and sing all of the songs. Sit for the readings. Stand for the proclamation of the Gospel. During the Gospel acclamation, candle-bearers, after picking up the candles in the Ambo area, join the Deacon or Priest for the Procession of the Book of Gospels from the Altar to the Ambo. Upon reaching the Ambo, the Candle-bearers hold up the candles and at eye level until the Gospel proclamation is finished. Don't make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips and chest. After the Gospel reading, the Candle-bearers place the candles in the holders on either side of the Ambo and return to their seats, without bowing, to listen to the homily. Stand for the Creed and the Prayer of the Faithful.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

If there is a family bringing up the gifts, the Cross-bearer goes to the back and leads the Offertory Procession. One server lights the Altar candles. One server joins the Presider to meet the Offerors and receive gifts from the Presider. The Cross-bearer secures the Cross to its designated slot. When the priest goes to the altar, bring water cruet and wine decanter (with lid removed) to the altar. Stand *together* on the right side. After the Priest has offered the bread, he will then turn to you with the chalice. Give him the wine first, then the water and they return the cruets to the credence table. Bring the bowl filled with water and the lavabo for the washing of hands. (If there is only one server, he/she drapes the towel over one arm.) The server with the water cruet picks up the lavabo dish. After the Priest

dries his fingers, return together to the credence table, place the water cruet on the credence table, fold the towel and return to your seat and remain standing.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The altar server nearest to the bell rings it once after the Holy, Holy, Holy prayer to signal all to kneel for the consecration. During the consecration ring the bells three times, twice: first during the elevation of the host and second (last) during the elevation of the chalice.

SIGN OF PEACE

The Priest will invite everyone to share the Sign of Peace. He will turn to you and shake your hands. The servers then share the Sign of Peace with one another. The servers place the empty ciboria on the right side of the altar. The servers present the bowl filled with water and the lavabo for the washing of the hands of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The servers then line up for Holy Communion on the right side of the altar.

AFTER COMMUNION:

Server takes the chalice, purificator, paten, corporal and the Sacramentary and places them on the credence table.

BLESSING AND RECESSIONAL

Stand for the blessing. Bless yourself.

When the priest has given the dismissal, the servers line up in the centre aisle for the Recessional in the following order towards the front door: CROSS-BEARER, CANDLE-BEARERS, OTHER SERVERS.

AFTER MASS

Extinguish candles. Bring, the chalice assembly, the cups and purificators, and if there is no mass following the bowls and lavabos, the ciboria and the water and wine cruets to the sacristy and place them in the counter. Place the Cross in its place. Hang up your cassock, cincture and cross.

COMMITMENT

**Any ministry requires commitment.
To share our talents with the community
by participating in liturgical ministry
is a privilege which brings with it responsibility.
This responsibility entails prayer, study, rehearsal,
Punctuality and faithfulness to scheduling.
If one is unable to fulfil one's participation,
then responsibility requires us to arrange for a substitute minister.**

A SERVER'S PRAYER

*Loving Father,
creator of the universe,
you call your people to worship,
to be with you and one another at Mass.
I thank you for having called me
to assist others in their prayer to you.
May I be worthy of the trust placed in me
and through my example and service
bring others closer to you.
I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.*