

# Altar Servers (A.S.)

***“Train up a child in the way s/he should go, and when s/he is old s/he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6***

Serving at the Altar is a special privilege. Altar Servers are close to the altar as they serve the priest, they carry the cross, and they carry the light of Christ. Our young altar servers wear the robe of baptism (the alb), which is a sign of their position in the community as baptized people. They hold the book of the prayers (the Roman Missal), and they help the priest and deacons at the altar. Like all calls to ministry, it is God who makes the invitation. God calls the young to help our parish worship by being an altar server.

## **WHO MAY BE AN ALTAR SERVER?**

This ministry is open to boys and girls, who are in at least 5th grade, have received their First Communion and have their parents' permission, as well as youth and young adults. The altar server ministry is very important and you will be making a serious commitment to your parish family. The altar server's attentiveness to the words and actions of the Mass will assure that the liturgy will unfold in a smooth and prayerful manner for all. For more information on how to become an Altar Server, please contact Fr. Ed Casey or Deacon Sam Bianco.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Which mass will I be assigned to?**

Altar servers are usually scheduled to serve Mass. Servers may request the preference of a Mass which they attend. If a schedule conflict arises once the altar service schedule has been posted, it is the server's responsibility to call other servers and arrange coverage. Servers are expected to be generous in helping each other out in this way. Three altar servers are scheduled for each Mass

### **How often do I serve?**

At IHM we do not have many A.S. so you may serve more than once a month. You will also serve on a rotating basis. You can also choose to serve as a substitute or trade off with the other ASs.

### **What's the time commitment?**

Generally, the time commitment is the Mass time and coming to Church 15 minutes before the Mass you will be serving.

### **Are there meetings?**

Generally, the meetings are very few and average once or twice a year. A training session is provided for all new A.S.

### **Whom should I contact if I have more questions?**

Feel free to speak to any of the A.S. that serve at our Masses and talk with them about their experience as A.S. If you have any further questions, please contact the Parish Office by phone: 215-483-1000

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Your family is registered at IHM
- You have received your First Communion and at least in the Fifth Grade.
- You have the permission of your parents
- Love and reverence for the Eucharist/Prayerful disposition
- Attend the training session (no more than 1 hour) and retreat

You are welcome to sign-up if you can serve as an Altar Server or are interested in becoming an Altar Server please call the parish office at 215-483-1000