

Altar Serving Newsletter October 2009



A great big thanks to all the Altar Servers who have served so faithfully this past summer and throughout the busy school year.

Special thanks to Elaine Falvey and Anne Marie Dineen who have just stepped down as former Altar Service trainers. They have served the parish for many years in the formation of our new servers and we wish them all the best in their new endeavors. We would like to welcome our new trainers, Mr. Walt McCall, Mr. Eric Smith and Mr. John Quitugua who have so generously consented to donate their time and efforts in the training of our new servers. This is a huge commitment to our school and parish and we thank them for their dedicated service.

A Word About Service Hours

This year, 7th & 8th grade Altar Servers will receive one service hour for each Mass served on a quarterly basis, with exceptions:

1. If you are making up a missed Mass from the summer, you will not receive a service hour.
2. Serving funerals during school time does not earn you a service hour, nor does it make up for a missed Mass.
3. Serving funerals and weddings during the weekend will not earn you a service hour, but can serve as making up a missed Mass.

While trying to clarify questions about service hours, we want to emphasize that serving at the Altar is not about what you can receive, but about what you can give as a prayer leader to your parish and your community. You have been called to serve. Your parish is grateful that you have responded to God's call.

Reminders

When switching Masses, please make sure that your substitute arrives and signs their name in and YOUR initials. If you do not sign the person's initials, they will be marked as missing a Mass. We've had a few instances where the substitute forgets entirely to show up! If that happens, the person whose name is on the schedule is responsible for the missed Mass. Don't let this happen to you! Remind your substitutes that they are serving for you the day before or even the week before. There are people counting on you. First, the priest depends on you. He needs to know you will be there on time. He needs to know you are prepared. You help the priest ensure things go smoothly. Remember also the people in the assembly count on you. Without you an important part of prayer leadership is missing.

Other News

- ❖ Congratulations to Sarah Sebers 8-15 and Marco Barajas 7-23, who were the first to be trained and served their first Mass on September 26, 2009.
- ❖ The trainers would like to remind you that wearing flip-flops or open-toed shoes is inappropriate when serving at the Altar. If it's at all possible, they would prefer you to wear your white school shoes.
- ❖ If you miss a Mass, you should call Ms. Letele at 415-682-3610 so as to arrange a date for make-up.
- ❖ New schedules should be out around the last week of October. Please do not use "I lost my schedule" or "I didn't receive one" as an excuse for missing Mass. If you do not receive one through your classroom, please pick up a copy at the rectory.
- ❖ New fifth grade Altar Serving candidates will be contacted in the Spring for their training assignment and training dates.
- ❖ Please stay tuned for dates for funeral and wedding training.