

Altar Server Registration Form

Please fill in all information, detach this section of the brochure, and return it to the parish office, the school office, or the Seton Center. Please call the office at 301-530-1550 if you have any questions.

Server's Name

Server's Grade Level

Server's Age

School Attending

Parents' Names

Street Address

City, State, and Zip Code

E-mail Address

Phone Number

Please mark if you or one of your family members is involved in one of the following ministries at St. Jane Frances de Chantal:

- Children's Choir
- Adult Choir
- Lector
- Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist
- Cantor

You will be contacted by e-mail or phone with information on upcoming altar server training sessions.



*Jesus said to them, "I am
the bread of life; he who
comes to me shall not
hunger, and he who
believes in me shall never
thirst."*

- John 6:35, RSV



*Serving our Lord
Through Assistance
at the Altar*

*St. Jane Frances de Chantal
Catholic Church*

**9701 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: 301-530-1550**

Altar Server Ministry Purpose

1. To serve God through your worship and prayer.

The ministry of altar server affords children an opportunity to express their personal spirituality. The simple acts of service performed are, in essence, acts of love for God. By actively participating in the liturgy through which Jesus becomes sacramentally present on the altar, servers express their personal desire to be close to Jesus.

The expression of a child's spirituality also has a family dimension, for the child server's ministry can only succeed with the full support of his or her family. The server's family life, in turn, is strengthened by this ministry, which provides a visible manifestation of the communal and transcendent purpose of the Christian family.



2. To serve the priest as he presides over the liturgy.

Closely related to the dimension of personal spirituality is the role of servant to the priest, who presides as an *alter Christus* (i.e., standing in the place of Christ) during the liturgy. By reverently assisting the priest, servers express their desire to serve Jesus and to follow his example of humble service to the community.

The example of the priest and the other adult liturgical ministers also inspires in the servers a sense of responsibility in ministry. Frequent, direct contact with the

adult ministers helps educate the servers in the variety of vocations to which God calls his people. The experience the servers gain should ultimately inform and inspire them in their own vocational discernment.

3. To serve your parish family by assisting in the celebration of the liturgy as a mirror and model for the gathered assembly.

By assisting the priests, altar servers perform a valuable service to the community. They also serve the assembly directly by providing an example of prayerful and reverential participation in the liturgy. As devout and visible worshippers, they share in the parish's apostolate of witnessing for the Gospel to visitors and others in the assembly who may need support in believing and living the Catholic faith.



The altar server's ministry is a service to others. Servers are often called upon to serve at Mass times that may be inconvenient for them or for their families. In their service to the community, altar servers learn and practice the self-giving love that characterizes the Christian lifestyle.



Altar Server Ministry Requirements

Age/Education/Sacraments

Altar servers should be

- ✚ At least 10 years old or enrolled in the fifth grade.
- ✚ Baptized Catholics who have received Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Training

New altar servers must attend

- ✚ A two-session training course (with written test), held as announced.
- ✚ Subsequent "on-the-job" training at scheduled training Masses.

Service

Altar servers should

- ✚ Be committed to serving our parish in a prompt, consistent, and devoted manner.
- ✚ Arrive at the church at least fifteen minutes before the beginning of Mass.
- ✚ Remain after Mass to clear the altar, extinguish the candles, etc.
- ✚ Serve at weekday Masses during the school year, if attending St. Jane de Chantal School.
- ✚ Serve at weekday Masses during the summer (all servers).
- ✚ Serve at weddings, funerals, and Holy Day liturgies as scheduled.
- ✚ Arrange for substitutes when not available to serve as scheduled.