

PARISH OF GREENCASTLE DIOCESE OF DERRY ALTAR SERVERS 2009

ALTAR SERVER'S PRAYER

Open my mouth, O Lord, to bless your Holy Name.

Cleanse my heart from all evil and distracting thoughts.

Enlighten my understanding and inflame my will
that I may serve more worthily at your holy altar.

O Mary, Mother of Christ the High Priest, obtain for me the most important grace of knowing my vocation in life. Grant me a true spirit of faith and humble obedience so that I may ever behold the priest as a representative of God and willingly follow him in the Way, the Truth, and the Life of Christ. Amen.

*Thank you for volunteering to serve at the altar of the Lord in Greencastle Parish. As altar servers, you play an important role in the celebration of Mass, and are a valuable asset to the priest and the parish community. This card highlights the various responsibilities of the altar server and is primarily meant to help servers to serve Mass well. Remember that you are serving Almighty God at each Mass. Again, thanks for serving your parish and our Lord! Although the duties of the altar server are many and varied, the most important responsibility of the altar server during Mass is **to pray!***

Father Hasson

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS ALTER SERVERS SHOULD KNOW

- Alb** – The full white garment worn by the priest, deacon, and in some cases the altar servers. The alb is symbolic of Baptism. The rope tied around the waist is called a **cincture**.
- Altar** - The place where the Eucharistic Sacrifice takes place. The altar is sacred and often contains relics of the saints.
- Ablution Cup** - covered dish of water on the side of the tabernacle which is used by the priest, deacon or extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to wash their fingers after distributing Communion.
- Ambo** - The platform, lectern or pulpit from which the reading and homily are given.
- Aspergillum** - The holy water sprinkler.
- Burse** - A square container for holding the corporal. It is selected for the liturgical color of the day. Used corporals should always be placed in the proper container for sacred cloths after Mass.
- Cassock** - A long tunic-like garment which reaches from the neck to the heels and is worn by some servers and clergy.
- Chalice** - A cup of precious metal that holds the wine which becomes the Blood of Jesus after the consecration. All chalices should be placed in their places after Mass. If the chalices were left unpurified by the priest or deacon for some reason, they should be left out on the presentation table for purification by the priest or deacon. Never put an unpurified chalice away.
- Chalice Veil (peplum)** - A cloth covering used to hide the chalice and paten up to the offertory and after Communion. It is selected by the liturgical color for the service.
- Ciborium** - A large cup or container of precious metal with a cover of the same material which will hold the Body of Jesus after the consecration for distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful.
- Corporal** - A white linen cloth, usually with a cross in the center, used to protect any particles of the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus from falling to the altar cloth. It is always folded and unfolded so as to protect any particles from being lost. The corporal is like the body winding sheet used to hold the crucified body of Our Lord in the tomb.
- Credence Table** - The table in the sanctuary where the cruets, chalices and ciborium are kept before and after the Consecration.
- Cruets** - The vessels containing the water and wine used at Mass.
- Lavabo** - The pitcher of water used when the priest washes his hands at the end of the offertory and before the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- Lectionary** - The book of reading used for the Liturgy of the Word. It usually contains all the biblical reading used for the three-year Sunday cycle of reading and the two-year daily Mass readings.
- Pall** - A square piece of cardboard or plastic which is covered by linen and used to cover the chalice.
- Paten** - A small saucer shaped plate of precious metal that holds the Host. No lay person should ever touch the paten, so be very careful when handling it in your official duties.
- Purificator** - A linen cloth used by the priest or deacon to dry the chalice after washing and purifying it. Used purificators must always be placed in the proper container for sacred cloths.
- Sacramentary** - The book containing the prayers said by the priest during the Mass.
- Sacrarium (piscina)** - A sink with it drain going directly into the ground usually fitted with a cover and lock which is used for the disposal of the following: The sacred linen wash and rinse water, used holy water, used baptismal water and blessed ashes. No other use is permitted.
- Stock** - The metal containers used to hold the oil of the catechumen, the oil of chrism and the oil for anointing the sick.
- Stoup** - The holy water fountains or bowls at the entrances of the church.
- Surplice** - A wide-sleeved linen worn over a cassock by clergy and altar servers in some parishes.
- Thurible** - The special vessel which holds burning charcoal and into which incense is placed. The device holding the incense is called the "boat."

SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH, GREENCASTLE – ALTAR SERVERS ROTA 2009

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Sunday	B (4 th)	B (1 st)	B (1 st)	A (5 th)	A (3 rd)	B (7 th)	B (5 th)	B (2 nd)	A (6 th)	A (4 th)	A (1 st)	B (6 th)
Sunday	A (11 th)	A (8 th)	A (8 th)	B (12 th)	B (10 th)	A (14 th)	A (12 th)	A (9 th)	B (13 th)	B (11 th)	B (8 th)	A (13 th)
Sunday	B (18 th)	B (15 th)	B (15 th)	A (19 th)	A (17 th)	B (21 st)	B (19 th)	B (16 th)	A (20 th)	A (18 th)	A (15 th)	B (20 th)
Sunday	B (25 th)	A (22 nd)	A (22 nd)	B (26 th)	B (24 th)	A (28 th)	A (26 th)	A (23 rd)	B (27 th)	B (25 th)	B (22 nd)	A (27 th)
Sunday			B (29 th)		A (31 st)			B (30 th)			A (29 th)	

Saint Brigid (A) (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	Saint Colmcille (B) (6.00pm Vigil Mass)	Saint Oliver (A) (9.00am Mass)	Saint Patrick (B) (9.00am Mass)
Claire Coyle Rebecca Coyle Niamh Coyle Carla McElhatton	Patrick Conway Kevin Conway Caoileann Conway Clare Tuohey	Aileen Tuohey Megan McKenna Michaela McBride Noel McKenna	Edward Clarke Eimear Bradley Aileen Tracey Maeve McCullagh

The above rota applies to Sundays and Holy Days following your Sunday on duty.

Special Masses during the week such as weddings or funerals will be the responsibility of the group serving on the previous Sunday.

Important: if you cannot come *you* must arrange for someone else to take your place.

- A minimum of **two** Alter servers are required for each Mass.
- Altar Servers must be seated in the front row of the Church until called to the sacristy by the priest or saristan.
- Altar servers must sign the attendance book upon arrival in sacristy.
- Altar servers must arrive at least ten minutes before the liturgy begins. All Altar servers must leave the sacristy together.
- Reverence is expected from all servers before, during and after the liturgy.
- Respect for yourself, fellow altar servers and adults in attendance in the sacristy (sacristan or a parent).

ALTAR SERVER RESPONSIBILITIES / DUTIES

In the Roman Rite of the celebration of Mass, altar servers have the following responsibilities / duties during the liturgy:

- **Gathering:** Altar servers carry the processional cross and candles (flambeaux) at the front of the gathering procession. Others may carry incense and a thurible.
- **Opening prayer (collect), if recited at the chair:** Usually, an altar server holds the missal, so that the priest has both hands free.
- **Proclamation of the Gospel:** If it is a regional habit, flambeaus and / or incense can be carried.
- **Receiving the gifts of bread and wine:** When the priest receives these gifts, altar servers may assist him by carrying them.
- **Preparation of the chalice:** Altar servers present the cruets of wine and water for the deacon or priest to put in the chalice.
- **Lavabo:** An altar server administers the water to the priest as he ritually washes his hands.
- **Ceremony of the Eucharist:** Where customary, altar servers ring bells at important points during the missal in front of the priest.
- **Ending procession:** When the priest and the servers leave the altar, again the processional cross is carried, perhaps with flambeaux.

Two or more altar servers will be required for Mass. If a bishop celebrates Mass solemnly, more are required, so as to take care of mitre and crosier, as well as other functions.