

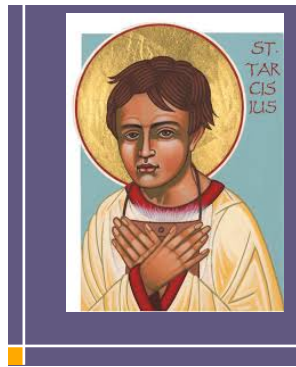
You will be doing more than you think ...

As you process into church, you are leading everyone into the presence of God. When you carry the cross solemnly at the head of the procession, you are saying to all the faithful, "See, we are all called to take up our cross and follow Jesus."

Do you carry candles? You are saying, "We bear within our heart the light of Christ we received at our baptism. We are the lights in the darkness." The candles accompany the cross and the Gospel because the Gospel and the cross bring light to the world.

You are like the angels before the throne of God. At the "Holy, holy, holy", go to the first step of the altar and kneel for the Consecration. You represent the angels of God bowing in adoration before the throne of God. Ring the bell with care and reverence. The way you worship at this point will raise the hearts and minds of all the people who are present. If you are reverent, silent and sincere, you will help everyone else to worship more deeply in the presence of God.

You will indeed be doing more than you think!



St. Tarcisus,  
Patron Saint of Altar Servers

Tarcisus was a twelve-year-old altar server during the Roman persecutions. Each day a Deacon would be sent to the prisons to carry the Eucharist to Christians condemned to die. At one point, there was no Deacon to send so Tarcisus volunteered to go.

On the way, he was stopped by boys who were not Christians. They noticed he was carrying something and wanted to see what it was but Tarcisus refused. They became a mob and turned on Tarcisus with fury and killed him.

Tarcisus has always been an example of youthful courage and devotion. We present him to our altar servers who, like Saint Tarcisus, are called to serve at the most sacred prayer of the Catholic Church where we receive the Most Holy Eucharist.

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## A Ministry Of Service

Aloha Altar Servers,

I thank you for responding to the Lord's call to offer your time and talent to serve our parish community as an Altar Server. The role of an Altar Server is very important as you will help ensure that we celebrate the sacred liturgy with dignity and reverence.

As an Altar Server you are called upon to live as a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ wherever you go. This service is rooted in your baptism as a Christian. As such, it demands that you strive to imitate the Lord in the way you conduct yourself, both inside and outside the church building. The way in which you conduct yourself during the liturgy serves as an example to all who are worshipping at Mass or other services at which you will assist.

I encourage you to grow in holiness by doing the following on a regular basis:

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Attend Mass on Sundays even when you are not assigned to serve.

Say your prayers every day to thank God for all the blessings He sends you.

Commit yourself to be a person for others through your service and deeds of charity.

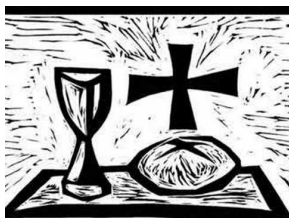
As you grow older and begin to consider what you might do with your life, consider serving the Lord as a priest or religious. God calls each of us to a vocation and it's important to have an open mind and heart to consider how the Lord might call you to serve. You will discover your vocation if you maintain your daily prayer.

Again, I thank you for giving your time and talent to serve God in our parish. We truly do appreciate your willingness to be of service at our liturgies. Never hesitate to ask the Priest at Mass if you have any questions. He is there to serve you, too.

God bless you +



Fr. Arnold Ortiz  
Pastor



## Our procedure – directions for serving ...

- Come to church with clean hands.
- As you arrive for duty at least 20 minutes before Mass, find the alb (robe) that fits you properly with the bottom of the alb almost touching your shoes. Wear your cross.
- A schedule is on the table in the sacristy. Write your initials next to your name so we know you are present for duty. Find a seat at the back of the church. When the outdoor bell rings, take your place in the main aisle to prepare for the processional (entrance).
- Candle bearers are first, followed by the cross bearer. Begin to process in when the singing begins.
- During the Gospel Acclamation, candle bearers using the ramp, proceed to the front of the altar with a head bow, stand at the side of the ambo facing each other during the reading of the Gospel. Return the same way after the Gospel is read.
- At the offertory, two servers approach the credence table. Place the chalice and ciboria (bowls) on the altar near the edge. Servers bring the wine and water, then the bowl and towel to the priest or deacon and return to your seat.
- The cross bearer rings the bells: one short ring, then three short rings.
- At the Prayer after Communion when the Celebrant says, "Let us pray," the three servers will move to the main aisle to prepare for the recessional.

## Characteristics ...

An Altar Server should be:

- REVERENT while serving and a prayerful example for the congregation.
- ATTENTIVE and fully participating in the Mass. The Mass is our most precious prayer and your actions will have the most meaning if they come from your prayer during the Mass.
- GRACEFUL AND SMOOTH while walking and bowing; never rush, take your time.
- UPRIGHT by maintaining good posture while walking (hands in prayer), sitting (with hands on your lap) and kneeling.
- ANTICIPATE what might happen next in the Mass, be prepared if something is missing.
- COLLABORATE and work together as a team.
- RESPONSIBLE by calling for a substitute if you cannot be present for your assigned Mass. The schedule will be emailed to you and posted on our website on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Your ministry is very special and we hope you will continue throughout your high school years. We always need experienced Servers to be models to our new Servers. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We are all here to guide and support you.