

About Altar Servers



Dear Altar Servers, you are, in fact, already apostles of Jesus! When you take part in the Liturgy by carrying out your altar service, you offer a witness to all. Your absorption, the devotion that wells up from your heart and is expressed in gestures, in song, in the responses: if you do it correctly and not absent-mindedly, then in a certain way your witness is one that moves people.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the bond of friendship with Jesus. You are very close to Jesus in the Eucharist, and this is the most important sign of his friendship for each one of us. Do not forget it.

-excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Altar Servers, August 2, 2006

The Altar Server's Ministry is a unique one in the Catholic Church. Other than priests and deacons, no one else is allowed to so closely play a part in the preparation of the Eucharist. Your participation as an Altar Server is special. When you serve the priests and deacons, you serve the people of God, and above all, you serve Christ.

Altar Servers must remember that everything that they do is for the Glory of God. They do it out of love for His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Ignatius of Loyola called this attitude "AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM". This means "For The Greater Glory of God". It is the motto of a heart of service.

Sometimes, we don't feel like doing our best. Sometimes, we just want to sleep another 5 minutes later; or we want wear our pajamas under our Albs; or we want to not have to carry the candles today; or maybe we even want to just call in sick and let someone else serve.

When we feel that way, we should ask ourselves, "Would I do it if Jesus Himself asked me?"

- ✓ Would I substitute for a sick server if Jesus Himself asked me?
- ✓ Would I let the new server take my favorite part if Jesus Himself asked me?
- ✓ Would I wear my best Sunday clothes if Jesus Himself asked me?
- ✓ Would I put aside my daily worries and worldly concerns and instead come serve at Mass if Jesus Himself asked me?

He did ask...

and you answered...

Now you have been chosen to be a special minister of the Mass.

As an Altar Server, you will do things that others will never do. You will learn things that others will never know. You will see the Mass in ways that others may never see it. You will do it all for the Honor and Glory of God.

Thank you for saying yes to Him, and welcome to Altar Service!

ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

Our altar server ministry at Prince of Peace consists of three (3) server roles, with an additional two (2) vocations path roles that overlap into the server ministry. The program has been instituted to assist in providing our servers with confidence and the opportunity to grow within the ministry by acquiring additional duties and responsibilities, and ultimately to help them grow and advance in holiness. Acceptance and advancement to different roles in the ministry is not automatic, nor is it guaranteed. It should, at all times, be considered an honor and privilege to be able to serve at the Altar of the Lord, not a right one has. Devoted altar servers play an important role for the entire Prince of Peace faith community, and through their service can help draw others to the Lord. This should be taken as a serious commitment.

SERVER MINISTRY TEAM

- Deacon Justin Reuter – Primarily responsible for the ministry. This includes the vision, procedures, implementation, and training.
- Traci Bazzelle – Supports the ministry in the administrative function, and assists deacon in implementation (Including communication, scheduling, etc).
- Director of Liturgy – Supports the ministry through MSP. Inputs server information and roles into MSP, communicates periodic MSP date availability (in conjunction with other liturgical functions).
- Father Andrew Gaffney/Andy Bazzelle – Lead and support the vocations path implementation, training, meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

Altar Server Webpage – www.popolathe.org/altar-servers

- General information/expectations of server ministry
- Upcoming training dates/signup
- Instructional Video
- Contact Information

Altar Server Email – altarserver@popolathe.org

QUALIFICATIONS

- Servers' families must be registered members of Prince of Peace Parish
- Servers must actively practice the Catholic faith and should regularly receive Communion
- Servers **must have completed fourth grade** (exceptions pending approval by pastor)
- Servers should be currently participating in a program of Faith Formation, either through the Parish Faith Formation Program, or through attendance at a Catholic school, or through structured home study. Servers not meeting this requirement should discuss their situation with the Altar Server Coordinator; accommodations can be made.

COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS

The Altar Server Commitment

In general, our servers should be just that, servants. Their role is to help draw people to Christ during the Mass. The ideal server is one not looking to 'do' the things servers do at Mass, but to 'be' a server. They should model Christ's words, "I came not to be served, but to serve". They model the attitude of 'whatever you need me to do' when assisting the clergy. Altar servers, in a very real and visible way, are an extension of the clergy at Mass, and thus are expected to conduct themselves in such a way through:

DEVOTION: *A COMMITMENT TO WHAT WE BELIEVE*

- A server is expected to have a love for God, the Catholic faith, and a desire to serve God and His people.

DEDICATION: *A COMMITMENT TO HOW WE ACT*

- A server is expected to fulfill their commitment by meeting the requirements of their given role and by knowing the responsibilities of their assigned role. A server is dedicated to the ministry, and always trying to help other servers excel as well for the benefit of God's people.

DISCIPLINE: *A COMMITMENT TO HOW WE SERVE*

- A server is expected to be able to maintain self-control and do what needs to be done the right way and with the right attitude.

INTENTIONS

New servers must meet with the Altar Server Coordinator to answer this question, "Why do you want to be an Altar Server?"

Altar servers must serve because they feel a **personal calling** to service. If you feel parents or others are pressuring you to serve, but you don't want to serve, quietly let the coordinator know. The coordinator is here to assist you. They are happy to help you determine if this right time for you to begin altar service. If this isn't the right time, then you are welcome to start again when you are ready.

Servers also must be prepared to meet the commitment required of them. They should understand the principles of Devotion, Dedication, and Discipline.

COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS

OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

While we don't expect perfection, we do strive for it. At a minimum, we expect our servers to show up when they are scheduled, maintain proper reverence, dress according to their role, and grow in their own relationship with Christ:

TIMELINESS

Simply put, servers cannot fulfill their commitment if they are not present, placing the ministry and liturgy at a disadvantage. Servers are expected to report to the ministry room 20 minutes prior to serving. After such time, clergy, ministry lead(s), and/or Lead Servers may begin looking for substitutes, and if a substitute is found the server should not expect to serve that Mass.

- Notify the ministry and/or request a substitute for a given Mass as early as possible.
- Failure to show up for an assigned time twice (2x) in a reasonable time period will result in a notification. Next failure to show will result in the account being paused.

REVERENCE

Inside and outside of Mass a server conducts themselves as a servant of God. A server should draw people into the Mass, not be a distraction, therefore reverence is the most important thing for a server at Mass. This includes self-control in maintaining proper posture, no meaningless talking or facial expressions, avoidance of 'squirming' around, not rushing/running to items or places, and even simple things like yawning or cracking knuckles should be avoided.

- Unruly, disruptive, uncooperative behavior inside of Mass is not allowed. Similarly, behavior outside of Mass can place the ability of a server to stay engaged in jeopardy if the outside behavior would cause a server to be a distraction during Mass (for example, a server outside of Mass who is found to bully other children outside of Mass should not be expected to continue to serve even if they 'do a good job').

DRESS

Altar servers vest in a white alb and cincture, similar to a priest and deacon, as they are a direct extension of the clergy. Footwear should be such as to not draw attention (so avoid bright neon colors, etc.), ideally black or brown shoes.

- The alb should reach approximately to the ankle. Too short is not in keeping with the purpose of the alb, and too long can cause an altar server to have difficulty walking, kneeling, etc.

ONGOING FORMATION

Our goal for our altar servers is to help them to grow with Christ as well. Therefore, ongoing formation opportunities may be provided for the spiritual well-being of the servers and families.

- Mandatory annual training is required for all servers wanting to stay active in the ministry. This is intended to be an occasion for spiritual growth, a chance to provide reminders of, and changes to, procedures, and an opportunity for fellowship.
- Additional materials may be provided for servers to assist with ongoing formation on an ad hoc basis.

ALTAR SERVER ASSIGNMENTS

TYPICAL SUNDAY MASS

Assignments for altar server roles at a typical Sunday Mass will be determined by the MSP system. MSP automatically assigns servers to roles based on availability and the roles each server has assigned to them. Some servers may serve more or less often based on which Mass times they have made themselves available for. The more servers available for a particular Mass time, the less repetitions a server can expect to have.

SPECIAL MASSES

There are various Masses throughout a given year that are of the highest degree, and therefore the liturgy particular to these Masses demands special care be taken in assigning server roles. For these occasions, MSP will not make assignments to ensure we appropriately accommodate the liturgies. Prior to these Masses, an email request for availability and interest will be distributed to the server community. While it is our intention and hope that all servers interested in serving will have an opportunity to do so, we cannot guarantee that to be the case. Once availability and interest is gathered, assignments will be made giving priority to servers who consistently operate in their role to the highest degree. Younger and less experienced servers may find themselves without the opportunity to serve these Masses initially, but as they grow and mature in their roles these opportunities should present themselves. The Server Ministry will confirm assignments with parents, and the assignments will be input in MSP for tracking purposes.

Special considerations are given to (but not limited to):

- Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
- Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday
- Corpus Christi

FUNERALS/WEDDINGS

Servers will have the opportunity to train for funeral or wedding Masses. Interest must be expressed to the Server Ministry through the yearly re-commitment, as servers will not automatically be associated with these Masses. Training will be conducted by pastor/priest (typical presider) for those interested. Once trained, servers will be added to the list of recommended servers for the Prince of Peace office use.

BEING AN ALTAR SERVER

TRAINING

Training will be scheduled regularly to accommodate all new altar servers and to provide ongoing training to existing servers. Once servers have completed the initial training, they will be able to begin serving as an Server Apprentice. After a server has qualified to serve, they will be added to the regular altar server schedule. All servers continue to participate in recurring training through:

1. The server advancement process,
2. Training resources, and/or
3. Debrief with Lead Altar Server, Deacon or Priest after each Mass,
4. Rehearsals for special liturgies, as required

Altar servers will be trained to handle all the tasks assigned to each specific duty. Servers will be required to memorize the prayer responses of the Mass, know the names of the vestments and vessels of the altar, and to learn the Order of the Mass.

Although we encourage attending scheduled in-person training, at a minimum, Servers should ensure they stay up to date with duties and responsibilities through continued review of posted training materials online at least once a year.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Altar Servers should come to Mass prepared to meet the Lord at His Holy Communion. They should remember to honor their one-hour Eucharistic fast. They should also consider whether they ought to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation ahead of time, and, if needed, make appropriate arrangements.

Once an Altar Server puts on the Alb and Cincture, their conduct always must be professional and reverent. ***An Altar Server is 'On Duty' from the time they put on their Alb and Cincture before Mass - until the time they remove it ...after Mass.***

Altar Servers must always show respect for the sanctity of the church and the sacred vessels...*and fellow servers!* The care of the vessels and vestments is a primary responsibility of the Altar Server.

SERVE OFTEN

We encourage you to serve often to get comfortable in your ministry. If you are not currently scheduled, you can come early and still serve as an additional Altar Server (see page 5). Being willing to substitute regularly, is a beautiful way to serve your ministry team. Consider coming to daily Mass and offering to serve regularly, especially over summer and school breaks. Serving often will draw you deeper into Eucharistic Amazement and the beauty of the Mass.

ALTAR SERVER ROLES

As servers grow in their knowledge, their skill, and their maturity, they will be recognized through advancement in the Altar Server Program.

Advancement through the levels of the program is not automatic, nor is it guaranteed. Altar Servers will have to prove themselves ready for promotion by demonstrating their Knowledge, Devotion, Dedication, Discipline and Spiritual Maturity.

Our Prince of Peace Parish Altar Server Ministry currently observes three (3) levels of Service. These levels are meant to inspire confidence and greater involvement in learning not just the duties and responsibilities of Altar Service, but also facilitating growth and knowledge in our faith, and creating an environment that fosters spiritual maturity, and opportunities for leadership development. The levels of Altar Service are:

1. **SERVER APPRENTICE**

The Server Apprentice is a new Altar Server who is learning the procedures. It is a role that gives those new to the ministry the opportunity to learn by closely watching and following the direction of the experienced Altar Servers. This period of time varies by server and amount of experience, and will be evaluated approximately every six months. Altar serving can be a little unnerving at first; therefore, this time is an opportunity for new servers to learn and bond with their Mass teams, build their confidence, and become comfortable in their service. Even when not serving at the altar, a Server Apprentice should watch the servers who are, in order to continue to learn.

2. **ALTAR SERVER**

After a minimum of six months service, a Server Apprentice may demonstrate they have acquired the knowledge and experience to become an Altar Server. These servers are comfortable with the parts of the Mass and know all the procedures well, with little direction. During the early years of service, they will be a Candle Bearer. This is an opportunity to demonstrate to themselves and to the community, their skills, knowledge, and spiritual maturity in their service at the Altar of Our Lord. In the later years of service, they will be the Cross Bearer. At this phase, the Servers lead and teach the newer servers, learn new responsibilities, and serve at special liturgies.

3. **LEAD ALTAR SERVER**

Lead Altar Servers are the leaders of the Ministry. As the program develops, this will eventually be a Peer Led Ministry – a great opportunity for our experienced Altar Servers, including highschoolers and young adults. This role is for those who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to leadership in their service. Lead Altar Servers will be given responsibilities beyond what other servers are asked or permitted to do. These Servers are the peer leaders in the Ministry; they demonstrate the greatest knowledge expertise, spiritual maturity and exceptional leadership potential. Lead Servers constitute a very small population of our servers, normally only one at each Mass; therefore, not all servers will become leads. Those considered as a Lead Altar Server will be nominated by a priest, deacon or the Altar Server Ministry Coordinator.

SCHEDULING

TYPICALLY THERE WILL BE FOUR (4) ALTAR SERVERS; while it can be done with only ONE (1) server, it is always preferred to have more. (This number does not include the Lead Altar Server and optional *extra* Server Apprentice(s) at each Mass).

The Four (4) Altar Servers will be scheduled for Sunday Mass using the Ministry Scheduling Tool (MSP). An Additional One (1) or Two (2) servers may also serve at Mass in a Server Apprentice role by arriving 20 minutes before Mass and signing in. This is on first come, first serve basis. One (1) Lead Altar server will serve at the Mass they are attending and will NOT be scheduled in the ministry tool at this time. We may not have a Lead Altar Server at each Mass. (As we develop more Lead Altar Servers, this will be a scheduled role for Mass in the future.)

When you register as an Altar Server, you will specify the Mass times you prefer to serve. Ministers are assigned approximately two - three months at a time. **A request for your availability will be sent via email 2-4 weeks before each scheduling session.** Please be sure to indicate dates that you are unavailable. The emails will be sent by the Scheduling Coordinator, Ms. Melissa Jakmouj, mjakmouj@popolathe.org.

If attending a Mass where you are not scheduled to Serve, please check in with the other servers and reference the ministry sign-in book when you arrive to see if a substitute is needed. This is to ensure that there will be adequate server coverage for the Mass.

The schedule and assignments are available in several locations:

- Sent by email to you when they are completed
- Posted in the Minister Book in the Ministry Room
- Available online in the scheduling software:

http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/prince_of_peace

Once schedules are Posted, Servers should work with their parents to ensure that they are serving at the Masses for which they are scheduled. Emergencies and unforeseen circumstances may arise; however, ***servers are responsible for ensuring their position is covered and for arranging their own substitutes.*** This can be done inside the scheduling tool and/or by calling alternate servers. If after a valid effort, a server is not able to find a substitute, they should email the Scheduling Coordinator to seek further assistance.

Ministry Book: A pre-arranged substitute must write in and sign their name in the 'substitute' line next to the person they are replacing.

ATTENDANCE

Failing to show when you are scheduled places an unfair burden on the other servers and is disrespectful to the Altar Server Ministry.

ARRIVAL

Altar Servers must arrive early to prepare for Mass. It is important to arrive before your designated serving time, **a minimum of 20-30 minutes before Mass start**. There are several duties that a server must perform before Mass. Often, there are some additional instructions regarding that day's liturgy that the priest and deacon may need to give to the servers.

Servers who are not scheduled for a particular Mass are asked to check to see that the assigned servers have arrived for Mass or if a substitute is needed. This should be done at least 10 minutes before the Mass.

LATE ARRIVALS: If a scheduled server arrives later than the above times, it is at the discretion of the Lead Altar Server, Deacon, or Priest whether they will still vest and serve; however, **SERVICES SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO VEST OR TO SERVE AT THE POINT WHERE ALTAR SERVERS & CLERGY HAVE ASSEMBLED AND BEGIN TO RECITE THE MINISTRY SERVER PRAYER.** It is understood that things happen beyond our control that may cause a late arrival to the Mass; but at this point in preparation for the Mass, it is often difficult, confusing, and too rushed for the Lead Altar Server to coordinate and re-assign responsibilities, which is unfair to the Mass Team when their focus should be on the Liturgy.

All servers are responsible for signing in when they serve. This should be your first duty before Mass. **Locate the MINISTRY BOOK in the Ministry Room.** Sign in under the day's Mass. If you are substituting, then please indicate for whom you are substituting. The Lead Altar Server will note any "no shows" in the Altar Server Book. Extra Server Apprentices, sign-in by manually writing in name and indicating "Apprentice."

CHECK THE NOTES POSTED ON THE ALB CLOSET DOOR for any Notes to Servers, Changes in Procedures, or Reminders.

MOBILE PHONES: If brought into the Sacristy, **CELL PHONES WILL BE TURNED OFF AND IMMEDIATELY STORED** in drawer of main cabinet in the Ministry Room BEFORE VESTING. **THEY WILL NOT BE RETRIEVED UNTIL COMPLETION OF MASS DUTIES.** *Preferably, these phones should be left in your car if at all possible.*

APPEARANCE AND DRESS

Always Come Prepared to Serve

CLOTHING

All servers are expected to wear "Sunday clothes" at the weekend Masses. Modesty should be preferred over fashion. No Jeans or shorts. Black or Khaki pants are preferred over other forms of dress.

SHOES

Shoes must be clean dress-style shoes. Black dress/casual shoes are preferred [Athletic shoes, sandals, crocs, and flip-flops are not appropriate]. Closed-toe, closed-heel shoes only. Shoes should have a conservative heel, and good traction. Servers may occasionally encounter water spills or loose carpeting; therefore, worn soles and high heels present a real hazard for tripping and slipping.

Dress code requirements that present undue hardship on a server or their family should be brought discreetly to the attention of the Altar Server Coordinator so that accommodations can be made.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Servers will not wear excessive or flashy jewelry. Other than a cross or sacred 'medal worn under the Cassock, and modest earrings for girls (simple studs are fine...hoops or dangling earrings are no go), all other jewelry should be removed and left with a friend or parent. No Watches are worn, and **NO CELL PHONES** will be carried while serving.

No perfume, scented body spray, or cologne should be worn. This is out of consideration for fellow altar servers who share vestments.

Young ladies wearing makeup should do so modestly, and be careful to keep their Alb clean and free of makeup.

Hair must be very neatly presented so as to not distract from the Mass. Long hair may be best pulled back into a pony tail (*primarily as a safety issue due to candles*).

ALB & CINCTURE

White Albs and Cinctures are sorted in the ministry room by size. Select an Alb that fits comfortably and is **long enough to cover to your ankles**. Rely on other servers for help with Cincture. You are a 'TEAM', as such, use the 'buddy system' to help and check each other out to ensure that the entire 'Team' appearance is in accordance to the established standard of dress.

After Mass, return your Alb & Cincture to its original place (by size), **buttoned up as to stay on the hangar**. Neatly hang them, facing the correct direction.

POSTURES

The posture of the Altar Server should be one of near invisibility. If people are paying attention at Mass, they should not even notice you. If someone looks at you, they should see a server who is reverent and paying attention. It should remind them that they, too, should be paying attention to the Mass, and not to you.

In general, your posture should be confident, but calm. You should look reverent and prayerful, but comfortable. **Move smoothly, reverently, but deliberately...DO NOT RUSH.**

Always face “the focus of the Liturgy.” When someone is speaking or reading during the Mass, you are listening to them. When the Eucharist is being consecrated, you are looking at it. When you are called to respond, you respond.

Make no distracting motions or noises. Do not wave, smile, or wink at people. Friends and family will be very proud of you. They may smile or even wave at you. Impress them further by attending to your duties at Mass without acknowledging them. You will have time to visit with them after Mass.

Coughs and sneezes should be covered with a tissue. Suppress the urge to yawn. If you do yawn, do so discretely and cover your mouth.

If you are holding anything, you are excused from the hand motions at that time.

STANDING

When standing, stand up straight. Balance your weight evenly on both feet, but do not lock your knees.

Whenever you are not holding anything, fold your hands with palms together, in the "prayer position". Point your fingertips upward. They should be held comfortably at about the middle of your chest.

If you are holding something, hold the item firmly with one or both hands, as needed. The free hand, if you have one, should cover your heart. Grasp items firmly and deliberately. When handing something to someone else, make sure they have a firm grip so as not to drop it.



Standing Position

PROCESSING

The procession is a sacred act. It is more than just a way for the priest to get to the altar. It is a very formal way of welcoming and glorifying Christ himself into our presence.

When you process, walk at a deliberate, but respectful pace. It should be just slower than you normally walk. If you are not the lead in the procession, keep pace with the lead.

When carrying something while processing, hold it reverently with both hands and slightly in front of you, not resting on your chest.



Processing

WALKING

Walk - Never run. You are the model of reverence, calm and grace. Walk deliberately to your station. Watch for others in your way and plan ahead to step around them. Never get in the way of the Presiders, nor of any Minister holding the Blessed Sacrament. Hands are folded prayerfully or firmly grasping whatever you may be carrying.

GENUFLECTING

Never genuflect when carrying anything.

Genuflecting to the tabernacle, whenever Jesus is reserved in the tabernacle, is required when processing up to and departing the Sanctuary. **All Servers (except for those carrying the cross or candles) genuflect in front of the tabernacle when processing up to the Sanctuary, and when recessing out at the end of the Mass.** Our Lord's presence in the tabernacle is signified by the red sanctuary light. When it is not lit, the tabernacle is empty, as on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the start of the Saturday Easter Vigil.

With your back straight and your hands folded prayerfully, from a stopped position slowly step forward with your left leg and lower yourself onto your right knee, and hold that position briefly. This will allow a smooth action as to not trip on your alb. **You will NOT make the sign of the cross when genuflecting. Raise yourself up and back with your left leg, while keeping your right leg in place.**



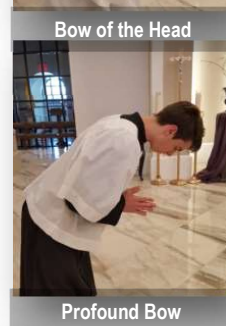
BOWING

When carrying cross or candles only a small bow of the head is done, never a full bow.

There are two types of bows.

The bow of the head: Lower your chin to your chest and hold it there briefly. There are several times in the Mass when this is done. Also, anytime a priest bows to you, return the bow with a brief head bow.

The profound bow (full bow): Bend at the waste and bow forward. This is used during the Profession of Faith and a few other times.



SITTING

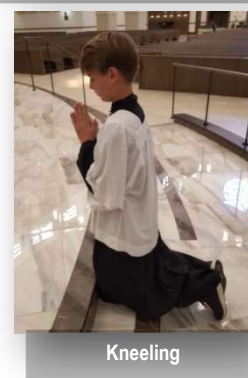
While sitting, sit up straight, not slouching. Feet should be directly in front of you. Legs should never be crossed, feet flat on the floor. Keep your legs and feet still. Hands are folded prayerfully or are resting comfortably in your lap.

Respond to prayers and sing deliberately, and fully participate in the Mass.



KNEELING

While kneeling, keep your torso up straight, not slouching or resting on your feet. If kneeling behind a chair or pew, do not lean over it. Feet should be directly behind you. Keep your legs and feet still. Hands are folded prayerfully.



PROCEDURES FOR MASS
***(Detailed procedures are provided
in a separate document.)***

ALTAR SERVER PRAYERS

Altar Servers are encouraged to learn these prayers and choose one to pray privately before serving.

ALTAR SERVER DEVOTION TO JESUS

*Oh Jesus, my King and Lord,
by the grace of the heavenly Father and the power of the Holy Spirit,
guide me in all righteousness as I serve You today at the Altar,
so I may be always worthy of Your presence.
If I happen to make an error, may it be a lesson so that I improve my service tomorrow.
Sweet Jesus, I love you with all my heart ~ Amen.*

ALTAR SERVER PRAYER OF THANKS

*Loving Father, creator of the universe, you call your people to worship,
to be with you and with one another at Mass.
I thank you for having called me to assist others in their prayer to you.
May I be worthy of the trust placed in me,
and through my example and service bring others closer to you.
I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever ~ Amen.*

TRADITIONAL ALTAR SERVER 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.*

REMEMBRANCE OF TARCISIUS, MARTYR

*O God, You have graciously called me to serve You upon Your altar.
Grant me the graces that I need to serve You faithfully and wholeheartedly.
Grant too that while serving You, may I follow the example of St. Tarcisius, who died
protecting the Eucharist, and walk the same path that led him to Heaven.
St. Tarcisius, pray for us and for all servers ~ Amen.*