

COMMISSIONING OF ALTAR SERVERS



**Includes sample Prayers of the Faithful for inclusion in the
General Intercessions of the Mass, and Prayers Before
and After Serving**

COMMISSIONING OF NEW ALTAR SERVERS

The following text may be adapted for use during the celebration of Sunday Eucharist where new Altar Servers are commissioned. The commissioning may take place after the homily, before the Profession of Faith.

INTRODUCTION



'In the body of Christ there exists a wonderful variety of gifts, which are especially evident when we gather around the altar to worship God. By virtue of our baptism in Christ some are called to serve the liturgical assembly: our altar servers help the sacristans prepare for Mass and assist the priest and assembly during the celebration of Eucharist. Today we commission our new Altar Servers in our parish.'

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Team Leader: Fr. _____, after careful training and preparation these young members of our parish family are presented to you, our Parish Priest, and to our whole community that you may commission them in the name of the Servant Jesus, asking the Holy Spirit to guide them, so that they may serve the Sacred Liturgy for our community, especially our Celebration of the Eucharist

Priest: May I request the New Candidates to the Ministry of Altar Servers to please come forward as your name is called.

When the Servers are assembled in the Sanctuary, the Parish Priest says:

Priest: I now invite you to declare before the Lord and this assembly your attention to serve in this parish.

Servers: I, _____ (state their name), wish to respond to the call of God as an Altar Servers by living the Eucharistic Mystery in all its fullness by assisting our priest(s) in the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

Priest: Inspired by the self-giving of Jesus Christ, Himself, I promise to fulfil my duties and responsibilities as an Altar Server with the help of Mary, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, together with the entire Christian community and fellow Altar Servers.

Priest: As Servers, you are called to assist the priest and deacons at God's Altar on behalf of all our parish community. You are to be thoughtful, prayerful and attentive as you serve, knowing that the whole community relies upon you. Know that you touch sacred things and that you are very closer to Jesus who came not to be served but to serve. Grow to be more like Him, serving with a generous heart, a willing readiness and an alert mind. Pray the Liturgy that you serve and listen carefully to God's Word.

In this way you are to deepen your love for our God, our Church and this community. Know that the Holy Spirit is with you to guide you. Know also that you can rely on the prayer, support and affection of our parish family, who will encourage you in your journey of faith and service.

The Parish Priest may wish to present the newly commissioned Altar Servers with a cross/crucifix (as local custom dictates) to wear over their cassock/alb when serving Mass.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Priest: God of Glory,
Your beloved Son has shown us
that true worship comes from the humble service of God's people.
Bless ✠ these servers as they begin in your service.
Reward their generosity of spirit and grant that their ministry at the altar
may be fruitful and our worship pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Mass continues with the Profession of Faith and Prayers of the Faithful. The new Altar Servers begin serving with the Offertory and Presentation of the Gifts.

SAMPLE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Some of the following sample Prayers of the Faithful may be included in the general intercessions of the Mass at which they are commissioned.

We pray for our newly commissioned Altar Servers: may they serve the Lord with enthusiasm, attentive prayerfulness, and a desire to grow in holiness.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for the continued faithfulness of our existing servers: may they inspire and encourage the younger servers, lead by good example, and deepen their relationship with the Lord. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for all Altar Servers: open their mouth to praise you in word and song, their ears to hear your Word, their hands to do your work well, and the desire to worship and serve you in the assembly. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for parents: may they affirm the decision of their children to respond to the Lord's call to service in their parish-community. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those responsible with training, encouraging, and overseeing Altar Servers in our Parish. We thank God for their dedicated service and may they inspire our Servers by their prayerful example. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for our community: may we encourage and nurture the involvement of the young in our parish. Instil confidence in their ability to lead and witness to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. **Lord, hear us.**



PRAYER BEFORE SERVING

God our Father,

You have given us the privilege of serving at
Your altar.

Help us to be reverent and attentive in Your
house.

May we always think of what we are doing and
saying.

May we listen carefully to Your Word, and so,
may we give glory to You and be an example to
others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



PRAYER AFTER SERVING

We thank You Lord,
for giving us the privilege of serving You and
Your people.

Be with us now as we return to our homes.

May what we have learned from you this day,
make us loving and kind at home, at school and
play.

And may we do only the things that please You.

Amen