

# Training Handbook For Altar Servers



## Blessed Sacrament Parish Kitchener

*And Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."  
(Luke 18:15-17).*

**Description:**

Altar Servers assist the bishop, priest, and deacon during liturgical celebrations, especially Holy Mass on Sundays and weekdays. Serving at the altar is a great privilege and an opportunity to grow in faith.

The Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest event in the world, and your ministry as an altar server assists Jesus, who is truly present in the liturgy. Altar servers must be practicing Catholics, boys or girls who have received their First Holy Communion or older and must attend the provided training sessions.

**Prayer:**

*Oh Jesus, my King and Lord, by the grace of the Heavenly Father and the power of the Holy Spirit, guide me in righteousness as I serve You at the altar today. May I be worthy of Your presence. If I make any mistakes, may they be lessons for me to improve tomorrow. Jesus, I love You with all my heart.*

Amen

**Be Reliable:**

- If you cannot serve when assigned, arrange for a substitute.
- Wear proper footwear (preferably dress shoes).
- Arrive at least 20 minutes before Mass.
- Sign in on the ministry list in the sacristy. (Ask the Sacristan if needed)
- After putting on the gown, concentrate on the preparation for the liturgy and preserve silence.

**Notes for service:**

1. **Required Roles:** One cross bearer, two candle bearers, and two acolytes. Additional help is always welcome you can always check even if not scheduled, if any help is needed.

## 2. **Procession:**

- The cross bearer leads, followed by the two candle bearers (side-by-side), then the acolytes.
- If no deacon or reader is to carry the Book of the Gospels, one altar server must carry it. This server stands in front of the priest.
- Upon reaching the altar, do not bow. Go up the stairs to the left of the altar, place the Gospel at its center, and bow before taking your seat, helping later the acolytes.

## 3. **During the Mass:**

- The cross bearer brings the Missal Book to the priest for the opening prayer, opening and closing prayer for the petitions, and the closing prayer.
- After the Alleluia, the candle bearers lead the priest to the Ambo and stand side-by-side before it. Return the candles to their original position after the Gospel reading.
- After the Prayers of the Faithful, two acolytes stand behind the altar, awaiting the priest's cue to assist him with receiving the offertory gifts.
- Hand the opened cruets to the priest (with water and wine) immediately. Place the Ciborium and Pyx on the altar if they come in the procession.
- Again, serve a bowl of water and a towel for the priest's handwashing without delay.

## 4. **Consecration:**

- Kneel at the altar's sides during the "Holy, Holy, Holy."
- Ring the bells once when the priest extends his hands and blesses bread and wine.
- At the elevation of the Host and Chalice, ring the bells three times in a strong manner.

5. **Communion:**

- NEW! Help with communion paten during Holy Communion to the priest and other ministers. You will receive Communion as the last one. Carry the paten to the altar and leave it there. You can only serve the paten after the training.

6. **Recession:**

- After the final blessings, candle bearers, cross bearers and other servers proceed to the middle aisle for the final procession, maintaining the same order as the entrance procession.