



We are very excited that your child has expressed an interest in the Altar Serving Ministry at Notre Dame. Being a part of this ministry requires from your child not only a commitment to the ministry, but also an understanding of what is expected of them. As parents of these young people there is a certain amount of commitment required of you as well.

The following is a list of expectations that all the altar servers are required to adhere to. We are sharing these with you because we hope you will help to iterate and instill in your children the seriousness and solemnity of the ministry. Your involvement is essential to achieve some of these goals.

- There will be 3 meetings during the year that the altar servers will be required to attend. These meetings will review altar serving procedures and go over areas where improvement is needed.
- There is a dress code for the altar servers. They should dress neatly for mass. NO GYM SHOES allowed.
- Altar servers are to arrive at least 15 minutes before mass is scheduled to begin.
- The altar servers must follow the actions of reverence that they are taught during training. This has become such a problem that we have received complaints from priests and parishioners about the posture and reverence of some of the altar servers in the sanctuary.
- Everyone is required to serve the daily 7 am masses and the Saturday 8 am mass. If your child has a conflict on a certain day, that can be worked out, but to just say you can not make any early morning masses is putting an unfair burden on the other servers. Everyone will be expected to participate in all of the masses.
- Currently our Server un-attendance rate is creating difficulty for our Priests and Deacons! If your child can not make a mass that he or she is scheduled for, it is that child's responsibility to **find a substitute**. There will be over 70 children in the Altar Serving Program so there is no excuse for not finding a substitute. Unfortunately this continues to be an ongoing problem so we need parents support to enforce this responsibility with their children at home.

If a child has not met one of these expectations, a card will be sent home to the parents to make them aware of the problem. If a child has 3 cards sent home within a three month period, he or she will not be eligible to participate in the Altar Serving Ministry. If a child would like to be reinstated into the program, a meeting would have to be scheduled with the server, the parent and Deacon Frank, Steve Tuttle, or Brian Deiss.

We are planning some outings for the servers this year. We really do want them to enjoy being part of the Notre Dame Altar Serving Ministry, but a certain level of responsibility and participation is expected from the servers. We hope this experience will help the children to grow, both in handling their responsibilities and increasing their participation in the Church; as well as having some fun along the way.

We ask that you sign and return the following page to the Parish Office by October 8, 2009.

Deacon Frank 655-0191

Steve Tuttle 986-8368

Brian Deiss 789-2154

I have read the expectations that the Notre Dame Altar Serving Program has for
_____ (child's name) and I will help to reinforce
these goals with my child.

_____ (Parent's signature)

_____ (Date)

**** Your child will receive a similar letter that they need to sign and return as well ****