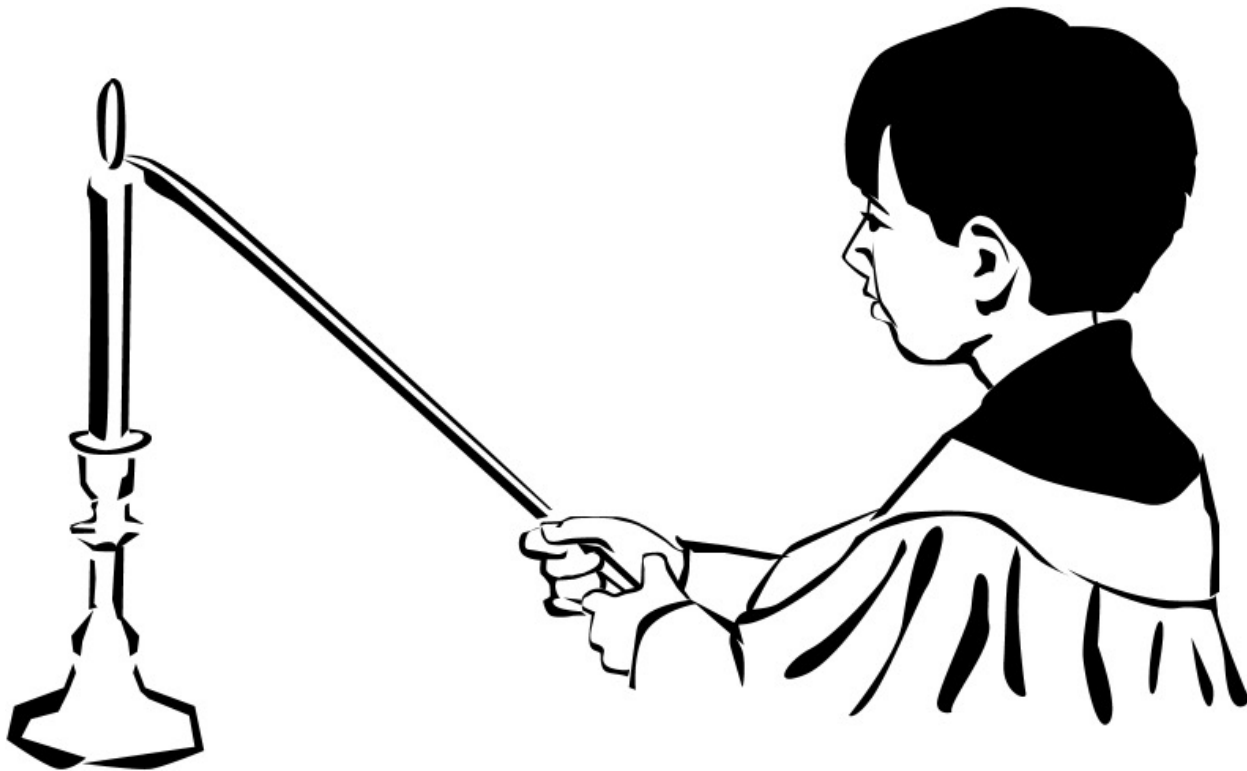


Serving at the Altar of God

An Instruction for Children and Youth



YOUR NAME: _____

TODAY'S DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2023

PACKET NO. 5

*Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Religious Education Program
Berkeley Springs, West Virginia*

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Me and the Holy Spirit this morning.



Always remember: God is most pleased with us when we say “yes” to what He asks of us.

LESSON 5: REVIEW

Lesson 1: Ministry of Altar Server

- What is an altar server?
- Who can be an altar server?
- What do altar servers do?
- Why be an altar server?

Lesson 2: Parts of the Church

- Narthex
- Altar Server Room
- Sacristy
- Nave
- Sanctuary
- Crossing

Lesson 3: Preparing Yourself to Serve at Mass

- Preparing Your Body
- Preparing Your Mind and Soul

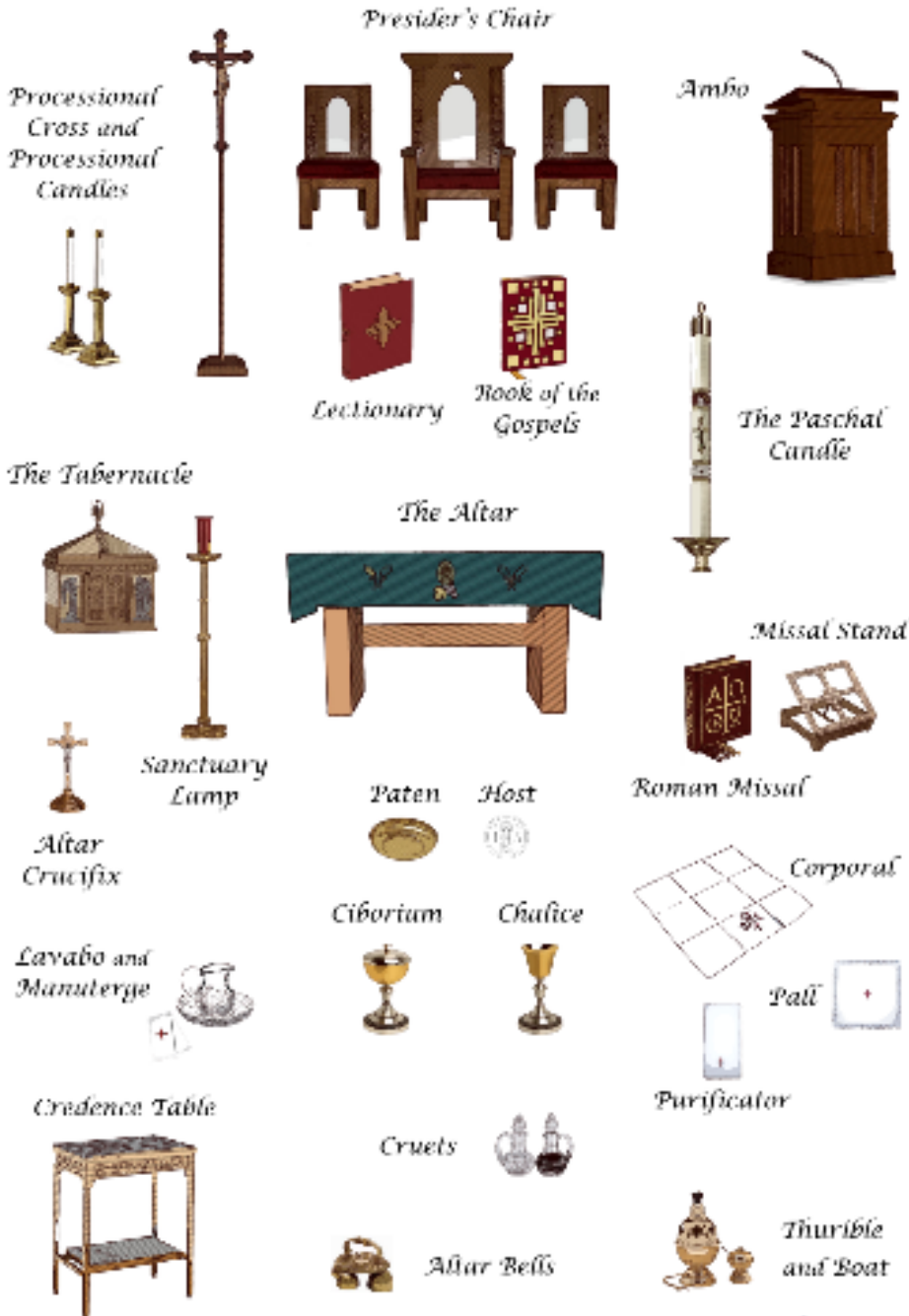
Lesson 4: Parts of the Mass

- Introductory Rites
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Closing Prayers and Recessional

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Articles Used at Mass



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PRAYERS DURING PRIESTLY VESTING AND THE MEANING OF VESTMENTS

As the priest prepares to dress himself in the sacred garments for Mass, it has been a long-standing tradition in the Church that he recites the following prayers:

Washing of hands

Give virtue to my hands, O Lord, that being cleansed from all stain I might serve you with purity of mind and body.

- 1 **AMICE** – a rectangular neck cloth which serves to protect the valuable chasuble and stole, but is used only if the alb does not cover the ordinary clothing at the neck.

Prayer

Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation upon my head, to repel the assaults of the devil.

- 2 **ALB** – a long white garment worn by the priest to represent the new and immaculate vestment that has been received through baptism.

Prayer

Cleanse me, O Lord, and purify my heart, that washed in the Blood of the Lamb I may attain everlasting joy.

- 3 **CINCTURE** – a cord used as a belt to tighten the alb symbolizing the virtue of chastity and continence, and is the same color as the chasuble.

Prayer

Gird me, O Lord, with the cincture of purity and quench in me the fire of concupiscence, that the virtue of continence and chastity may remain in me.

- 4 **STOLE** – a long narrow band, several inches wide and about 80 inches long (and of the same color as the chasuble) which is worn as a sign that the priest is serving in his official liturgical role.

Prayer

Return to me, O Lord, the stole of immortality, which I have lost in the sin of my first parent; and although I, unworthy, approach Thy sacred mystery, grant to me, nevertheless, everlasting joy.

- 5 **CHASUBLE** – the final vestment of the priest that is worn over all the others and symbolizes the virtue of charity and the yoke of unselfish love.

Prayer

O Lord, who hast said, My yoke is easy and My burden light; grant that I may be able so to bear it, that I may obtain Thy grace. Amen.



Illustration by Nathan Runda

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Now, let's practice!

1. Before Mass: Vesting
 - Alb and Cincture
 - Cassock and Surplice (once purchased)
 - Altar Server Prayer before Mass
2. Assignment of Jobs and Responsibilities Before Mass
3. Preparing for the Mass
4. Processing In and Introductory Rites
5. The Liturgy of the Word
6. The Liturgy of the Eucharist
7. Concluding Rites and Recessional
8. Completion of Jobs and Responsibilities at the Altar
9. After Mass: The Altar Server Room
 - Prayer After Mass
 - Replacement of Vestments

OUR NEXT ALTAR SERVER TRAINING will be on Sunday, March 5, 2023.

- We will conduct 2 "mock" Masses so students can practice
- It will be during this instruction period when all students will be asked if they'd like to join the St. Vincent de Paul Altar Servers Guild (ASG).
- Students who choose to join the ASG will be installed by Fr. Mikee at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

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Go to Confession as often as you can (at least once a month is good!).

It's First Aid for your mind, body, and especially your soul!

Prayer for Altar Servers

by St. John Berchmans, Patron of Altar Servers (adapted)

To be Christ's page at the altar,
To serve Him freely there.
Where even the Angels falter,
Bowed low in reverent prayer.

To touch the throne most holy,
To hand the gifts for the feast,
To see Him meekly, lowly,
Descend at the word of the priest.

To hear man's poor petition,
To sound the silver bell,
When He in sweet submission,
Comes down with us to dwell.

No grander mission surely
Could Saints or men enjoy;
No heart should love more purely,
Than yours, my altar girls and boys.

God bless you, forever,
And keep you in His care,
And Guard you that you never
Belie the robes you wear.

For white bespeaks untainted
A heart both tried and true;
And red tolls love the sainted
The holy martyrs knew.

Throughout life, then, endeavor
God's graces to employ;
And be in heart forever
Holy altar girls and boys.

— St. John Berchmans