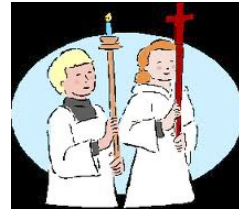


## Good Shepherd Catholic Church Altar Server Q&As



1. **How old do I need to be to be an Altar Server?** Altar servers can start at the age of 9 and they are in the fourth grade and can continue until they graduate from High School.
2. **Can I serve if I am a girl?** Absolutely. Girls are encouraged to participate in this ministry at Good Shepherd.
3. **How often will I be asked to serve?** Typically servers are scheduled for once a month. There are frequent opportunities to fill in as a substitute if someone what's to serve more frequently.
4. **What about my schedule?** The schedule is prepared on a two-month basis. We work hard to accommodate Mass preferences and other scheduling considerations. Parents are asked for general preferences when they sign up and for monthly scheduling issues prior to each bi-monthly schedule. Of course, it is a huge job scheduling 72 altar servers each month. Sometimes first choices cannot be met in order to make sure we have enough servers for each Mass. But we try hard.
5. **What if I cannot make a Mass after I am scheduled?** Once the schedule is posted, we ask you to try and get someone to fill in if you have a conflict. However, there is a large and responsive network of servers who are willing to substitute. It usually just takes a single email out to the other servers.
6. **My brother or sister also wants to be a server. Can we serve together?** Yes, if requested we will schedule siblings together. We will also work schedules to accommodate parents that may be serving at masses as ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, in the choir, etc.
7. **Do I have to get to church early or stay late?** We ask that you get to the church 10 to 15 minutes before your Mass to prepare. You are done at the end of Mass.
8. **Do I need special training?** Yes. There is periodic training that lasts a couple hours to train you. Inexperienced servers are also paired with those more experienced so they can be mentored.
9. **Does altar serving this count for service hours?** Yes. This is a great way to obtain volunteer hours for Confirmation or other service requirements on a regular basis.
10. **I have been told this is preparation for being a priest. Is this true?** Altar serving is a great way to participate actively in the Mass and volunteer in an important church ministry but is not preparation for the priesthood or sisterhood. Of course, if a servers feel a calling to serve God in a greater capacity, altar serving is a wonderful introduction to the rite of the Mass.

If you have more questions feel free to contact the Alter Server Coordinator Jean Rausch at [JeanRausch@cox.net](mailto:JeanRausch@cox.net) or 703-780-3398.