



**Diocese of Salt Lake City  
Office of Worship**

**Altar Server**

The primary role of the altar server is to assist the priest during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Altar servers carry the cross, the processional candles, hold the book for the priest celebrant when he is not at the altar, carry the thurible (incensor), assist the priest at the preparation of the altar during the offertory, and assist the priest celebrant and deacon in other functions.

Altar servers should be chosen from among the faithful who display a desire to participate in an intimate way during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. They should be mature enough to understand their responsibilities and to carry them out well and with appropriate reverence. In addition, they should have already received holy communion for the first time and normally receive the eucharist whenever they participate in the liturgy.

Requirements include knowing all the prayer responses of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, from memory, knowing how to properly genuflect and bow, how to make the Sign of the Cross, and how to receive Holy Communion in the approved manner.

Servers should receive proper formation before they begin to function. The formation should include instruction on the Mass and its parts and their meaning, the various objects used in the liturgy (their names and use), and the various functions of the server during the Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Servers should also receive appropriate guidance on maintaining proper decorum and attire when serving Mass and other functions.