

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SERVING AT MASS AT ST. JULIES

Serving at Mass is an important responsibility. If you don't show up for your assigned spot, you make a negative impact on our parish and those scrambling to cover your spot last minute. Your duty is not just for your community service but our parish.

When you serve at Mass, your attitude and presence becomes the face of our faith. When you're serving, we expect that you come with a friendly attitude, say hello to others especially the celebrating priest and deacon, greet people as they enter the church, and be prepared to serve at Mass.

Part of preparing for Mass includes dressing nice. Jeans, yoga pants or tights, t-shirts, and sneakers, shouldn't be worn by anyone who is serving at Mass. Rather an appropriate dress would include for ladies, either a dress that goes to your knee, slacks, and a top that covers your shoulders. Sweaters may be worn if needed. Guys need slacks, either a button down or nice polo shirt tucked in, and black or brown shoes with appropriate socks. Again, we represent the church when we serve and our standards should be set a bit higher.

What to do when you arrive

Everyone who is serving at Mass, no matter what their job, needs to arrive at 4:45pm, then go to the sacristy (the room located behind the altar) and sign in at the end of the hall in the folder marked "5pm Youth Mass" and indicate the position they are there to serve. Altar servers have a different sign in sheet. If it's your first time ask one of the peer ministers who will be serving as a Eucharistic Minister or Daryl what to do. Specific positions will have specific duties.

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Ushers

If you have signed up to be an usher, your first duty is to make sure that there is no trash that needs to be picked up in the pews or in the back of the church.

Next, ushers should check to see that there are bulletins available and then should meet with all ushers to discuss who will be covering which section of the church. The four sections include:

1. Far side section that is closest to the men's restroom and baptismal font. The user for this section will take the collection all the way down the aisle nearest the wall and same for communion dismissal.
2. Middle right section is the section that is down the middle aisle off to the right side when you're looking at the altar.
3. Middle left section is the section down the middle off to the left when you're looking at the altar.
4. The last far side section is near the choir risers. The usher for this section takes collection down the aisle along the wall and starts with the chapel then continues to the pews behind the choir section.

The Ushers have four main responsibilities

1. Greet people
2. Take the collection (after the Profession of Faith). Ushers should go to the back to get their baskets and into their positions. Ushers at the 5pm Mass also bring up the gifts of bread and wine and take the large collection of money to the

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back with an adult supervisor.

3. Communion Dismissal (ushers should take their positions at the Sign of Peace) is very easy and ushers should use this time to smile and greet people prior to receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. There's a reason why Mass is called a Eucharistic Celebration so don't be afraid to smile.
4. Dismissal- At the end of Communion, ushers take their positions at the exits to hand out bulletins. Again make sure you smile and wish everyone a great week.

Other important notes about Ushers

Remember that not only are you serving at Mass, you're participating in it as well. When the congregation prays, participate. When the congregation sings, participate. When they kneel, kneel.

Sometimes our ushers prefer to stand in the back of church instead of sitting with their families. This is ok but if you choose to do this please note that our Pastor has told ushers to not let people sit in the middle section during his homily and to also wait till after each reading is completed for people to take their seats.

Lectors

Lectors have a great responsibility in proclaiming the Word of God at our Sunday Eucharistic Celebration. Preparation prior to Mass is really

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important. To be able to do this effectively, prior to lecturing at Sunday Mass, Lectors should do the following:

1. Complete the parish lector training by Jim Bullock
2. Practice the Sunday readings at least four times the week prior making sure they have no problems with volume, pace, or pronunciation of words.
3. Come dressed appropriately to proclaim the Word of God.
4. After signing in, Lectors take the large book of readings, review the readings then place the large book on the Ambo.

At the beginning of Mass, the Lectors process in with the other servers and sit in the front of church. After the Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy) and invocations from the priest, the lector walks to the bottom of the steps before the Ambo, bows reverencing the altar, then proceeds to the Ambo for the reading. After the reading they do another bow reverencing the altar before returning to their seat. The Lector for the second reading would follow the same steps after the responsorial psalm which is sung by our cantor at the Ambo.