

St. John of the Cross Parish

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December 17, 2018

Dear Parents and Students:

I invite you and your child to join the St. John of the Cross Parish Altar Server Ministry. Altar Servers participate in an important ministry that supports our parish worship life. Being an Altar Server means being part of a team that works together for the celebration of Mass. Altar Serving should be a joyful experience. Serving Mass as an Altar Server can be one of the greatest experiences in the faith formation of a young Catholic's life as well as an opportunity to practice leadership and collaboration skills. We encourage you and your child to consider this important ministry.

Training for new Altar Servers (6th, 7th and 8th grade students of the parish) will be held on consecutive Tuesdays – January 15, 2019 in the school, Flex Room 119 and January 22 and 29 in church from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. *A parent must accompany your child for the first meeting, January 15, 2019.* Each student must attend all three training sessions. The training sessions will be conducted by our high school sacristans, veteran servers, Mrs. DeCesare, and me.

If your son or daughter is interested in Altar Serving please register them using this link: <https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/altar-server-training-registration/> The link can also be found on the parish website.

In addition to the training, servers will be given a 'handbook' that outlines the duties and responsibilities associated with Altar Server ministry. A series of short videos are posted on the website to serve as a review for all servers.

Rest assured that it is natural for students to be a little nervous, even hesitant to want to serve. All new Altar Servers will be scheduled with experienced Altar Servers. In addition a high school Sacristan is positioned behind servers at Mass to help direct and guide them throughout the mass. A number of our elementary Altar Servers over the years have gone on to become sacristans, lectors, and communion ministers, therefore remaining active in parish life.

SJC utilizes an online scheduling program called Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) which allows you to submit the preferred dates and times your son/daughter is available to serve. You will receive an email with login information upon completion of the training. A brief tutorial will walk you through the scheduling process.

This is a wonderful ministry and we are grateful to you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns upon my return after January 1.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Bill Vollmer (soon to return from my sabbatical)
Associate Pastor
bvollmer@stjohnofthecross