

## **Acolytes (short description)**

Acolyte means helper or attendant, especially in worship. Our younger acolytes help with the liturgy through bearing banners, crosses, and the gospel. Our older acolytes do all these, and in addition, help set the Altar for communion and carry the offerings from the ushers to the Altar.

## **Acolyte age**

3rd grade to High School as well as adults. If you are interested in being an acolyte please email the acolyte coordinator, Jacque Chiavini [jchavini@gmail.com](mailto:jchavini@gmail.com)

## **Before service**

- Get dressed: white robe, belt and cross. Arrive 15 mins before service.
- Light the candles
- Get cross from and torches from Altar and return to vesting room for prayer
- Head to the narthex with clergy standing in center aisle ready to go.

## **Beginning the service**

- Proceed down the center aisle to Altar – Cross turns right to place cross in holder. Torches place candles in floor holder.
- Sit on any of the six chairs. Crucifer should sit next to the table with the bread and wine.

## **Gospel Procession**

- Wait for a cue from the priest to begin the gospel procession.
- If crucifer, you go to the second pew empty handed waiting to receive gospel from priest.
- If torch, you follow the crucifer down into the midst of the pews.
- The priest reads the Gospel and returns the book to crucifer
- Hold gospel over your head and lead the priest/torches back up the aisle
- Return the Gospel book to the altar.
- Go back and sit in your chair, or go to side pew to listen to sermon

## **Communion and setting the table**

- Hand the priest the elements in order that he or she expects.
- Get hand towel and bowl and water
- Wash priest's hands (only the one leading communion)
- Receive collection plates from priest and place on credence table
- All acolytes stand close to Altar (in-line with clergy)
- Stand through communion
- Take communion

## **Distributing Communion**

- Crucifer will be the gluten free chalice and bread. Torches will be ready with a spoon to remove stray piece of bread from the wine as well as holding extra wine.
- Always follow the clergy and be ready to jump in when needed.
- As communion is finished, you may be handed something like a paten. Head to back (sacristy) and place whatever you have on the countertop.

### **End of Service**

- Wait for cue on when to leave the red carpet sanctuary area--- depending on the song – we will go quickly or wait - priest will cue..
- Upon clergy cue during final song at 10am (or immediately after blessing at 8:30am) the crucifer will get cross from the holder and move to the red point on the Altar
- After altar party catches up, acolyte turns and leads the procession to the back.
- In narthex, be ready to take whatever the clergy hand you. You will take all that back to the sacristy and hang the robes.

### **After the service is over**

- Put cross back in the holder
- Put out the candles
- Take off robes and hang them up and as well as hang any clergy robes.
- Done!