

August 2017

Dear Parents of Altar Servers,

I hope you and your family are having a wonderful summer. The Altar Boy teams and schedule are attached. The teams are comprised of boys in Grades 3 to 10.

Please note that for some services, all Altar Servers are invited and encouraged to serve. If it's known in advanced that a boy cannot serve when his team is scheduled, please send an email to all on distribution in the transmittal email to ask if a boy from another team can serve in his place (this is especially true during Holy Week).

If this is the first year your son will be serving, please go over the attached Altar Boy Manual with him before his first time serving.

Only those Altar Servers who have served at least 50% of the time scheduled and have attended Church School at least 50% of the time during the previous year (Sep 2016 to May 2017) have been assigned to Altar Boy teams.

We will conduct a workshop on September 17 at noon in the Sanctuary to train the Altar Boys and all must attend this session. In addition, the Altar Servers should be knowledgeable about the Divine Liturgy (which they learn about in Church School), since they play such a significant role in the service.

We ask four things of you to help make this year a success:

1. Please convey to your son(s) the importance of serving God as an Altar Boy. Being an Altar Boy is not something to take for granted. It is a great privilege to be able to serve in the Sanctuary, the most sacred part of the Church. They can witness the miraculous preparation of Holy Communion up close, and actively participate in the Divine Liturgy by assisting our Clergy; they (and the Dean of Altar Servers and Altar Server Assistants) are the few Laity given this privilege. We need your help to explain what an important role they have, and motivate them to come and serve. Please read with your son(s) the attached article from The Word magazine entitled The Altar Server Ministry.
2. Please get them to Church on time (at least 15 minutes before the service begins). Their robes must be blessed, Holy Bread cut, censer and candles lit, etc. before the start of the service.
3. Please explain to your son(s) the importance of good conduct while serving. The Sanctuary is very sacred, and serving there requires the utmost respect. Also, the other Clergy and I can not be distracted when serving the Liturgy. Soft whispering is only allowed when it is completely essential. All Altar Servers should strive to become Outstanding Servers by demonstrating both exceptional attendance and conduct.
4. Please have your son(s) attend the workshop in September and any subsequent practice sessions. This is especially important for the younger boys.

John Najjar will once again serve as Dean of Altar Servers. Fred Hamwey, Richard Gwinn, and Tim Ristaino will serve as Altar Server Assistants.

Thank you so much for your family's support in the past, and we greatly appreciate your continued assistance in the future. If your son has been assigned to a team and can no longer serve, or if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Bob Kurker at (781) 799-1577, robert\_kurker@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

*//Signed//*

Fr. John Teebagy

cc: John Najjar  
Fred Hamwey  
Tim Ristaino

Laurie Bradley  
Richard Gwinn  
Bob Kurker

## Altar Boy Teams

Church of St. John of Damascus Altar Server Society  
2017-2018

Fr. John K. Teebagy, Pastor                      John Najjar, Dean  
Fred Hamwey, Richard Gwinn, and Tim Ristaino, Assistants

<b>St. Matthew Team</b>	<b>St. Mark Team</b>	<b>St. Luke Team</b>
Xavier Chalhub	Matthew Clark	James Dow
James Johnson	Matthew Esty	Anthony Haddad
Brian Tawa	Christopher MacNeil	Christopher Ristaino
Daniel Tawa	Jake MacNeil	Alexander Zelic

### PLEASE NOTE:

***All Altar Servers are invited to serve and get credit, on a first come, first serve basis, until there are enough for the following services:***

***Christmas Eve, Dec 24, 10 AM and 6 PM***

***Presanctified Liturgies throughout Lent, 5:30 PM***

***Holy Thurs AM, Washing of Feet, Apr 5, 9 AM***

***Holy Pascha, Apr 7, 10 PM***

***May 27 through Sep 2***

### Schedule

<u><b>St. Luke</b></u>	<u><b>St. Matthew</b></u>	<u><b>St. Mark</b></u>
Sep 24	Sep 10	Sep 17
Oct 15	Oct 1, 22	Oct 8, 29
Nov 5, 26	Nov 12	Nov 19
Dec 17	Dec 3, 31	Dec 10
Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 7, 28
Feb 4, 25	Feb 11	Feb 18
Mar 18	Mar 4, 25	Mar 11, 31 @ 9 AM (Lazarus Sat)
Apr 1; 6 @ 7 PM (Good Friday); 22	Apr 4 @ 7 PM (Holy Wed); 7 @ 9 AM (Holy Saturday), 29	Apr 5 @ 7 PM (Holy Thurs); 15
May 13	May 20	May 6