

August 2018

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.

We will conduct a workshop on September 16 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. If for some reason your son is going to be late on a particular Sunday, please have him still come back to the Sanctuary to serve. Seven boys are required to properly have the Great Entrance. It is better to be late than not having enough servers.
3. The servers are also welcomed to serve at all the services, even if they are not scheduled that week. Once again, seven boys are required to properly have the Great Entrance, so if they can serve more often, they are certainly welcomed. If during the Liturgy you see we are low on numbers, please send your son(s) back to the Sanctuary to help.

4. 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.

5. 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, Tim Ristaino, and Anthony Haddad 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
Richard Gwinn
Tim Ristaino
Anthony Haddad

Bcc: Fr. John Teebagy
Laurie Bradley
Andrea Finch
Nancy Close
Ray Hamwey
John Haddad
Gail Kurker

Altar Boy Teams

Church of St. John of Damascus Altar Server Society
2018-2019

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

St. Matthew Team	St. Mark Team
Gabriel Chalhub	Dominic Cassarino
Xavier Chalhub	Matthew Clark
James Dow	Matthew Esty
Steve Marcelonis	James Johnson
Brian Tawa	Christopher MacNeil
Daniel Tawa	Jake MacNeil
Alexander Zelic	Christopher Ristaino

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, 6 PM

Presanctified Liturgies throughout Lent, 5:30 PM

Holy Thurs AM, Washing of Feet, Apr 25, 9 AM

Holy Pascha, Apr 27, 10 PM

May 26 through Sep 1

Schedule

<i>St. Matthew</i>	<i>St. Mark</i>
Sep 9, 23	Sep 16, 30
Oct 7, 21	Oct 14, 28
Nov 4, 18	Nov 11, 25
Dec 2, 16, 30	Dec 9, 23
Jan 13, 27	Jan 6, 20
Feb 10, 24	Feb 3, 17
Mar 10, 24	Mar 3, 17, 31
Apr 7, 20 @ 9 AM (Lazarus Sat), 24 @ 7 PM (Holy Wed); 26 @ 7 PM (Good Friday)	Apr 14, 21, 25 @ 7 PM (Holy Thurs), 27 @ 9 AM (Holy Saturday)
May 5, 19	May 12