

August 2016

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. As in the past few years, in most cases, we don't have cousins on the same team. This has been done to enable teams to have an equal mix of experience, and to keep the teams with approximately the same number of members. This will also enable the boys to get to meet and better know other boys in the Church, which is beneficial since we are all one Parish family.

Please note that for some services, all Altar Servers are invited and encouraged to serve. If a boy cannot serve when his team is scheduled, he cannot serve another day to make it up.

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 2015 to May 2016) have been assigned to Altar Boy teams.

We will conduct a workshop on September 25 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 Deans of Altar Servers) 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. They will be awarded two points for arriving on time, one point for arriving by 10:00 am, and no points for arriving after 10:00 am.
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. Up to two points will be awarded for conduct. **To earn an award, an Altar Server must have both exceptional attendance and conduct.**

4. Please have your son(s) attend any practice sessions. This is especially important for the younger boys.

John Najjar will once again serve as Dean of Altar Servers. Fred Hamwey and Nathaniel Teebagy will serve as his 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
Nathaniel Teebagy

Laurie Bradley
Andrea Finch
Bob Kurker

Altar Boy Teams

Church of St. John of Damascus Altar Server Society
2016-2017

Fr. John K. Teebagy, Pastor

John Najjar, Dean

Fred Hamwey and Nathaniel Teebagy Assistants

St. Matthew Team	St. Mark Team	St. Luke Team
Xavier Chalhub	Matthew Clark	Dominic Cassarino
James Johnson	Matthew Esty	Vince Cassarino
Brian Tawa	Anthony Haddad	Richard Gwinn
Daniel Tawa	Christopher MacNeil	Christopher Ristaino
Alexander Zelic	Jake MacNeil	Tim 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 13, 9 AM

Holy Pascha, Apr 15, 10 PM

May 28 through Sep 3

Schedule

<u><i>St. Luke</i></u>	<u><i>St. Matthew</i></u>	<u><i>St. Mark</i></u>
Sep 11	Sep 18	Sep 25
Oct 2, 23	Oct 9, 30	Oct 16
Nov 13	Nov 20	Nov 6, 27
Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18
Jan 1, 22	Jan 8, 29	Jan 15
Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 5, 26
Mar 5, 26	Mar 12	Mar 19
Apr 9; 14 @ 7 PM (Good Friday); 30	Apr 2; 12 @ 7 PM (Holy Wed); 15 @ 9 AM (Holy Saturday)	Apr 8 @ 9 AM (Lazarus Saturday); 13 @ 7 PM (Holy Thurs); 23
May 21	May 7	May 14