

Parish of St. Thomas More

Altar Server Guide to the Ministers at Mass

- **Celebrant**

This is the Priest who presides over the celebration of the Mass.

- **Deacon**

When present, the Deacon proclaims the Gospel, prepares the gifts for Liturgy of the Eucharist, he is an Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion and may preach on the Gospel.

- **Lector**

The Lector reads the Scriptures other than the Gospel. There may be two or more Lectors that will read during a Mass.

- **Cantor**

Cantors welcome the congregation to Mass, announce the music, rehearse new music with the congregation, lead the songs during the liturgy while encouraging the congregation to participate, and sing the psalm for the Mass.

- **Cross Bearer**

The server who carries the processional cross during the entrance and exit processions and will also lead the procession of gifts to the altar.

- **Candle Bearers**

The servers who carry a candle in the processions during Mass. These servers will also assist the Priest or Deacon in the preparation of the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- **Thurifer**

The server who carries the thurible and the boat. During special celebrations, the thurifer leads the procession at the beginning and end of the Mass.

- **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion**

This individual assists the Priest and Deacon with the distribution of Holy Communion to the congregation.

- **Usher**

This person greets parishioners as they arrive at Mass, help parishioners to find seats, assist with the offertory collection and gifts procession and supervise the safety and other needs of the congregation.