

SERVER TRAINING LEVELS

Beauty, then, is not mere decoration, but rather an essential element of the liturgical action, since it is an attribute of God himself and His revelation. These considerations should make us realize the care which is needed, if the liturgical action is to reflect its innate splendour.

Pope Benedict XVI

THERE ARE FOUR ALTAR SERVER TRAINING Levels: (0) Apprentice Server, (1) Junior Server, (2) Senior Server, and (3) Master Server. This level indicates the state of advancement that an altar server has attained in their abilities and maturity.

Servers at all levels strive to mature in the following:

- Be vested at least fifteen (15) minutes before the start of Mass.
- Be silent and respectful in the sacristy.
- Follow the dress code. Face and hands are to be clean.
- Be attentive and reverent in the sanctuary.
- Memorize and enunciate clearly the responses as required. Sing when required!
- Maintain correct posture and proper positioning.

APPRENTICE SERVER (LEVEL 0)

Apprentices are those altar servers who have not yet received formal training for Junior Server. In preparation for advancement to Junior Server, the Apprentice shall acquire a working knowledge of the Order of the Mass, as well as basic rubrics, prayers, and responses.

Apprentices usually serve as Candle Bearer, Torch Bearer, or Boat Bearer.

JUNIOR SERVER (LEVEL 1)

To be advanced to the Junior Server level, the candidate shall have performed the duties of an Apprentice with excellence in at least 25 liturgies. An assessment shall be administered to determine if the candidate has acquired a working knowledge of the Order of the Mass, as well as its basic rubrics, prayers, and responses.

Junior Servers are trained in the use of the *Missal*, the Processional Cross, and the Communion patens.

Junior Servers usually serve as Book Bearer, Cross Bearer, Candle Bearer, Torch Bearer, or Boat Bearer. Particularly advanced Junior Servers may serve as S2 or even S1.

SENIOR SERVER (LEVEL 2)

To be advanced to the Senior Server level, the candidate shall have performed the duties of Junior Server with excellence in at least 35 liturgies. An assessment shall be administered to determine if the candidate knows how to serve appropriately.

Senior Servers are trained in Arranging and Clearing the Altar, as well as with the Thurible, and how to serve at Adoration/Benediction.

In addition to the duties of a Junior Server, Senior Servers may also serve as Thurifer, Server 1 and Server 2.

MASTER SERVER (LEVEL 3)

To be advanced to the Master Server level, the candidate shall have performed the duties of Senior Server with excellence in at least 45 liturgies. An assessment shall be administered to determine if the candidate has mastered serving in all capacities. The Master Server must know all assignments well enough to teach others.

In addition to the duties of a Senior Server, Master Servers may be asked to assist the Priest or M.C. with special assignments during complicated liturgical rites.

Note A Master Server, who has proven his reliability, intelligence, and reverence while attending the Priest Celebrant at the Altar, may be advanced, at the discretion of the pastor, to study and be trained to function as a Master of Ceremonies (M.C.).

TRAINING LEVEL SUMMARY CHART

| Training Level | Apprentice | Junior Server | Senior Server | Master Server |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Knows | Working knowledge of the Order of the Mass, as well as basic rubrics, prayers, and responses | Use of candles, the <i>Missal</i> , the Processional Cross, and Communion patens. | Arranging and Clearing the Altar, proper use of bells, thurible, how to serve at Adoration / Benediction | All ordinary duties, and well enough to teach them to others. |
| Is Learning | Use of Candles, the <i>Missal</i> , the Processional Cross, and Communion patens. | Arranging and Clearing the Altar, proper use of bells, thurible, how to serve at Adoration / Benediction | How to serve at Episcopal Masses. Leadership. | M.C. duties. |
| Scheduled As* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Server, • Boat Bearer, • Candle Bearer, • Torch Bearer | As Apprentice, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Bearer, • Cross Bearer, • Server 2, • Torch Lead | As Junior, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Server 1, • Thurifer • M.C.-2 | As Senior, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.C., • Special assignments |
| Liturgies until Next Assessment | 25 | 35 | 45 | — |
| Vesting | Albs and white cinctures. | <p><i>Females:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albs and coloured cincture for the liturgical season. • Hooded albs if available (Masters first, then Seniors, then Juniors). • White or violet cinctures for funerals. <p><i>Males:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassock and surplice. | As Senior, but adding the Medal of Saint Benedict. At the discretion of the M.C., males may wear lace surplices, except when the liturgical colour is violet or black. | |

* Normally Apprentices will not appear on the Schedule until they are close to their assessment.