

Acolyte Ministry Mission & Vision 10/7/15

Our Mission is Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging our Youth to take an active role in leading and participating in the community's Worship of God.

This Vision for the Acolyte Ministry of this parish includes:

- The Acolyte Ministry welcomes all willing youth who have attained the stature necessary to fulfill the expected responsibilities.
- Acolytes are active participants in the congregation's worship of God, visibly supporting the clergy and participating in the service.
- Acolytes understand that our worship always seeks the Glory of God rather than the entertainment of an audience, and strive to serve reverently and faithfully, as a personal commitment of their time and talents in the service of the Lord.
- Acolytes have a clear grounding in the significance and meaning of the elements of the liturgy and their part in assisting the clergy to ensure that the liturgy proceeds smoothly, reverently and with dignity.
- Acolytes worship and serve in a manner that demonstrates reverence for God, and maintain relationships with one another that are warm and welcoming.

The Acolyte Ministry also Grows Disciples of Jesus Christ by:

- Promoting Spiritual Formation through active participation in the liturgy, music and prayer that serves to glorify God and proclaim the Good News of Jesus.
- Building a Christian community of acolytes that support one another and welcome and mentor newcomers to help them to become comfortable and proficient in their duties in the service of God.
- Practicing good stewardship of parish resources through responsible maintenance, budgeting and spending.

Our basic programmatic framework for this ministry is:

- The Acolyte Ministry invites participation from all youth in the 5th through 12th grades.
- Acolytes assist the clergy in leading the congregation in worship, participating in all major elements of the Eucharistic service.
- Acolytes are ranked as Novices, Intermediates and Seniors, each having distinct duties and responsibilities.
- Training for new acolytes is offered as needed throughout the year, and current acolytes are encouraged to refresh their training each year.
- Older acolytes mentor younger acolytes, help them to fulfill their duties, and facilitate Christian relationships within the Acolyte Team.
- Acolytes are encouraged to grow in the role, assuming greater responsibility in the service of the Lord.

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Ministry Development Goals to implement this Vision:

- Retain and grow the number of youth participating in the Acolyte Ministry through sustained, consistent recruitment efforts (Sunday school, personal contacts, etc.).
- Refresher training to refine acolyte performance, reinforce the significance of the role and emphasize personal commitment, participation and reverence.
- Spiritual development of the Acolyte Team as a group through fellowship activities and mentoring/interpersonal connections.
- Yearly Acolyte Sunday/Investiture to recognize and present new and current acolytes to the congregation and bestow Senior crosses.
- Develop/train Thurifer Team.
- Attend Diocese Acolyte Festival and Thurifer training opportunities.