

# ACOLYTE MINISTRY

## Agenda

10.10.2012

7:00 PM

Opening Prayer

Team Introduction

House Cleaning

Bathroom Breaks – Get up and go if you have to go!

Attendance of Training – 7:00 PM till 8:30 PM

We will start all training at 7:00 PM Sharp!

Decide Days of Month -

Next Class -

Complete Profile

Review Handout

Assignment – Why Me?

8:30 PM

Closing Prayer

*2nd & 4th  
Weds  
Month 7pm*

*2nd & 4th Weds of  
Nov 2 14 28th*

*Monday Natmnts Oct 22*

*Make Xcel  
Sheet  
include Adam & For Noelle  
& all Court Acolytes*



**PRAYER OF PREPARATION  
FOR AN ACOLYTE**

Lord, I ask that You would spark my memory  
to recall how Your Son, Jesus, at the first Mass  
did serve those who were at table with Him  
in the act of washing their feet.  
May my service at this Mass be in that same style;  
may I with a humble yet proud heart  
serve the needs of the Table of the Lord.

Be with me as I stand at Your Table,  
so that my very attitude and behavior  
may be filled with diligence and dignity.  
May nothing I do, by action or attitude,  
take away from the beauty and blessedness  
of this Sacred Action.

With humble gratitude for the privilege  
of serving at the Altar-Table,

I prepare my heart to worship You  
as we are now about to begin this Holy Eucharist.

Amen †

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING  
FOR AN ACOLYTE**

My Everlasting Lord,  
as I extinguish the candles at Your Table,  
may their flames burn brightly in my heart.  
May the words, deeds and actions of my daily life  
make clear to others that I know  
that I have been privileged to serve You, my God,  
and my brothers and sisters  
in the Community of Christ.  
May I be eager to serve Christ and others  
whenever I find them in need—  
in my home and family, in my daily activities—  
in every corner of life.

I make this request  
in the name of my Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ,  
who lives with You and the Spirit, forever and ever.

Amen †

# ACOLYTE MINISTRY Profile

Please Print Clearly

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: TX Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Do You Text? Yes or No

Home Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

## Current Ministries:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

# ACOLYTE

## Ministry Training

### October 2012

#### **acolyte**

(Greek: akolouthos, attendant, follower)

An attendant, for subordinate duties, on the ministers officiating at a sacred rite, e.g., altar-boys; especially member of the highest of minor orders in the Latin Church. The chief duties of this office are: to light the candles on the altar and to carry them in procession and during the solemn singing of the Gospel; to prepare wine and water for the Sacrifice of the Mass; to assist the ministers at Mass and other public services of the Church.

1. One who assists the celebrant in the performance of liturgical rites.
2. A devoted follower or attendant.

Coordinator: Mark Meurer Cell/Text 806.789.8456 [mark@slatonchurch.com](mailto:mark@slatonchurch.com)

# **ACOLYTE MINISTRY**

## **BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ALL ASPECTS OF:**

- The Mass
- Any special Rite(s) planned
- Location and use of Vessels/Materials/Supplies

## **PROVIDE ADDED VALUE TO PRESIDER(S) AND CELEBRATIONS**

- Assist in planning
- Participate in rehearsals
- Ensure smooth implementation of all aspects of the Mass and Rite(s)

## **PROVIDE LEADERSHIP TO ALTAR SERVERS AND OTHER MINISTERS**

- Project/demonstrate leadership
- Very discreetly communicate to the Presider/Deacon/Other Ministers when a function or activity is scheduled (only as appropriate)

## **FAMILIARIZATION WITH RESPONSIBILITIES / FUNCTIONS / ACTIVITIES OF ALL OTHER MINISTERS**

- Altar Servers
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors
- Cantor
- Choir
- Ushers / Greeters

## **“MANAGE SITUATIONS”**

- Minister is unavailable / does not carry out responsibilities
- Special requests of Presider / Deacon
- Unusual situation occurs
- Emergency situation arises

## **REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND**

- “On-Stage Stage Manager”
- Don’t attract attention to yourself

## **UNDERSTANDING OF:**

- The Mass
- Rite(s) included in the Celebration
- Altar Servers' duties and responsibilities
- Other Ministers' duties and responsibilities

## **ENSURE PREPARATION / AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE MASS / RITE(S)**

- Chalice (Paten)
- Linens
- Holy Water
- Incense
- Holy Oil(s)
- ~~Sacramentary~~ *Ramon Missal*
- Lectionary
- Book of Gospels
- Script for Rite(s)
- Pastoral Candle

## **PROVIDE ASSISTANCE**

- Presider / Deacon / Ministers
- Before / During / After Mass

## **HANDLE SITUATIONS / REQUESTS**

- Relieve Presider / Deacon of non-Clergy activities
- Ensure closure

## **FUNCTION AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION / DIRECTION**

- Presider / Deacon / Ministers

## **PREVENT / HANDLE DISTRACTIONS**

- Vesting Sacristy
- Working Sacristy
- Altar Area

## **INTERFACE WITH PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS**

- As Greeter
- Provide assistance / information / leadership

## **SET EXAMPLE**

- Appearance / Punctuality / Attitude / Manner
- Reverence

**PARTICIPATE & REPRESENT THE PARISH IN OTHER MINISTRIES**

*Such as...*

Youth	RE	Baptism
Music	Adult Ed	Funerals
Prison	RCIA Teaching	Newcomers
Communion Sick	Donors/Sunday	
Knights, CDA	Physical Church Needs	

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



In his famous book, *Ordering Your Private World*, Gordon MacDonald contrasts being "driven" by negative or selfish motives, versus being "called" by God. He declares that being "called" should provide our motivation. He explains that yielding to God's call brings great peace and rest to our lives.

In my life and ministry experience I have been both "called" and "driven." I believe there is a positive side to being driven – Jesus was "driven" into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted, for example (Mark 1:12). But then there is also the negative side of being "driven" by my own desires, by lust, by fear, by confusion, or by competition.

As Christians, many times our motivation can be from love of the Lord and compassion for His people. But that's not always the case.

A bible teacher recounts the story of Jesus' restoration of Peter, explaining that Jesus never asks Peter if he likes sheep, or feels particularly attracted to sheep. Instead, Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love Me?" It is this love for Jesus that is to be our motivation to serve Him and the Church. I want to be "called" – and if I am to be "driven," I want it to be by the Holy Spirit and not by fear or my own selfish ambition or motivation.

A New Testament contrast I would point to in describing the difference between being "called" and being "driven" would be that of the disciples John and Judas.

Judas was, no doubt, a "driven" person. The Bible says that Judas became upset at the woman who poured the expensive perfume over Jesus prior to His crucifixion. In true "driven" form, Judas complains that the perfume could have been sold and the money give to the poor. In John 12:6 the Holy Spirit reveals what was really in his heart, "...not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it." The Gospel of Matthew tells us that after Judas and the other disciples where rebuked by Jesus for criticizing the woman with the expensive perfume, Judas goes to the Chief Priest and strikes the infamous deal to betray Jesus.

There is no question that Judas, like the other disciples, expected Jesus to be a mighty political and military leader who would overthrow the Romans and resurrect the nation of Israel. Jesus strongly rejects this notion, telling the disciples plainly that He will not attempt such a revolt. In fact, He declares that He will surrender Himself to these Romans to be put to death.

Judas may have been under the impression that Jesus had lost His mind. This rebuke may have been the straw that broke the camel's back for Judas.

So many times before, in Judas' eyes, Jesus had done just the opposite of what was pragmatic. Perceiving that the ship was about to sink, the driven Judas may have deduced that he would cash in on the process and cover his losses. It was Satan's possession that sealed the scenario, causing this man who witnessed dramatic miracles at the hand of Jesus to betray the One who loved and ministered to him for three years.

Judas' drive, combined with Satan's influence, finally resulted in the horrific suicide of this tragic figure.

In contrast, we see the beloved disciple, John – writer of a Gospel, three epistles, and the Revelation. John had a profound effect on the Church -- and still does today. He was human, like the rest of us, and displayed some flaws in the early going -- wanting with his brother James

to sit on the right and left side of Jesus in Glory – and then asking to call fire down from heaven on the unbelieving village.

But later we see the strength of his character displayed as he followed Jesus all the way to his death on Calvary, risking his own life to be there for his friend and Lord. It is John who stays with Jesus when all the other disciples run in fear. John is in the court yard when Peter denies Jesus. John comforts Mary at the foot of the cross and is given charge over her by Jesus.

After the day of Pentecost, John becomes one of the four apostolic pillars of the early Church, along with Peter, James, and Paul.

It's little wonder that while the life of "driven" Judas ends in tragedy, "called" John's final days are filled with the glorious Revelation of the culmination of the ages at Christ's return.

I believe the point is clear. To be selfishly "driven" to ministry, service, position, power and prestige is to court disaster. To be "called" by God, however, and to serve Him humbly means that we are truly led by the Spirit of God. When we die to our own selfish desires and drive and then ask the Lord to live in us and through us, then as the "called" of God we are enabled to accomplish God's kingdom plans and purposes for our lives.

Like the "called" Paul – who was formerly the "driven" Saul – we can say, "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ..." (Phil. 3:8 NLT).

