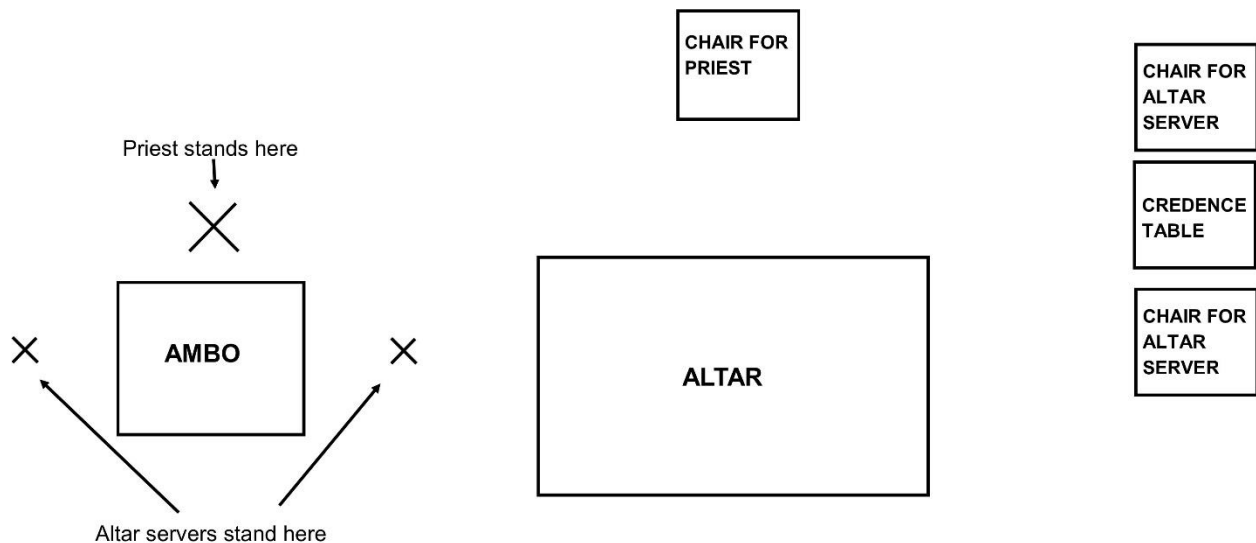


Joyful Catholic Families
Lesson #9 -- Be an Altar Server

Set up room:

- Children's tables or totes with lids for altars. If not enough children's tables or totes, use regular tables for the taller children.
- Put green plastic table cloths on the tables for "altar cloths"
- Folding chair for "priest"
- Two children's chairs for the "altar servers"
- Ambo – put a tape rectangle on the floor. Put two small X's where the altar servers stand. One large X where the priest stands
- Credence table: use box, chair, laundry basket, milk crate, or small table for this
- On altars put:
 - cruets filled with water and "wine" (colored water)
 - bracelet for one of the altar servers



Altar Server BINGO: [\(Click for a post on the Altar Server BINGO and pdf to print\)](#)

Play BINGO to review the terms we will be using during this class.

Mass Kits: [\(Click for a post on how to make Mass kits.\)](#)

In this bag are many of the items that we use at Mass. These things just look a little different because they are ones you can play with. As you take the items out of your bags, see how many of the items you can name. (Children do this with their parents.)

After they have looked at the items, say the name of an item in the bag and have the children hold up the item.

How to Set the Altar:

How many of you sometimes help set the table at home?

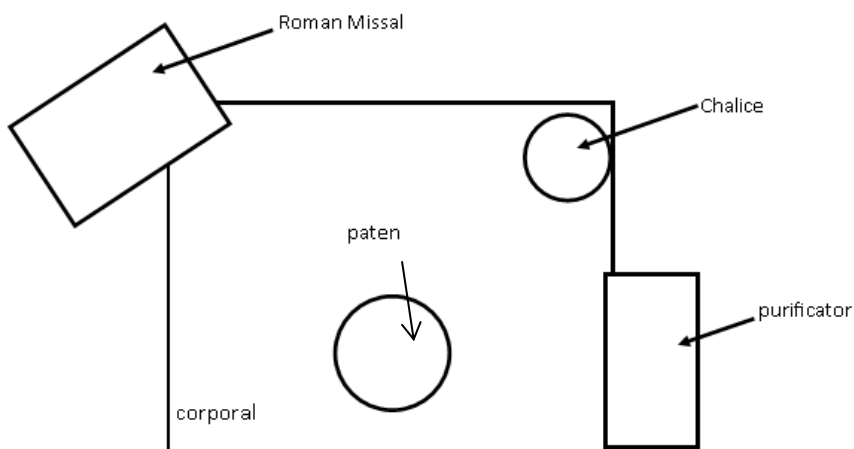
- When the altar servers get the altar ready for the priest, it is like setting the table. They are preparing for a meal. What is the meal? (Jesus' Body and Blood)

Set a table and an altar beside each other.

- When we set a table, first we put on a table cloth. When we set the altar, we put on an altar cloth.
- Continue with the rest of the items
 - table decoration: crucifix
 - candle for special meal: candle
 - place mat: corporal
 - plate: paten
 - cup/glass: chalice
 - napkin: purificator

Using the items in a Mass kits, show the children how to set the altar.

- ❖ Corporal:
 - in the center of the altar
 - not hanging over the edge of the altar
 - the folds that make the center square should face open and upward
- ❖ Roman Missal: (use children's Mass booklet they received at the last class)
 - a little to the left of the corporal
- ❖ Chalice:
 - on the corporal
 - right edge furthest from the edge of the altar
- ❖ Paten with host:
 - in center of corporal
- ❖ Purificator:
 - on right side of corporal



Children return to their parents. Children and parents “set the altar” with items from their Mass kits. You tell them each step in the process.

Sticks for Processional Crucifix:

Show how the stick works and then give one to each child.

Check if all children have their Mass booklets:

- Give any children that forgot their Mass booklets, a Mass booklet.
- Ask parents to add the following pages to their child's Mass booklets:
[PDF for these Mass booklet pages](#)
 - Opening prayer
 - Gospel
 - Closing prayer

Pretend to be Altar Servers:

- ❖ Divide group into one dad/grandpa with two children.
 - One child puts Mass items on tray – except for cruets
 - Other child's Mass items are put back in bag or left on table to put away later
- ❖ Put trays with Mass items on “credence tables”
- ❖ Add to tray the already filled cruets that are on the “altar”
- ❖ One child puts on bracelet
- ❖ “Priests” put on stoles

- ❖ We are going to do only those parts of Mass the server has a part in
 - **opening procession** – **server w/ bracelet: carries processional crucifix**
server w/o bracelet: carries candle
 - Bow head towards altar when near the altar.
 - Put crucifix on table. Put stick by altar server's chair
 - Put candle on altar
 - **opening prayer** -- **server w/ bracelet: stands in front of his/her chair**
server w/o bracelet: holds Roman Missal for priest
 - Rest the top of the Roman Missal against the server's chest to keep it steady.
 - Use hands to hold open the pages of the Roman Missal at the bottom.\
 - **first and second readings**
 - Priest and servers sit for the readings
 - **reading the gospel** – **both servers: hold candles beside priest**
 - During the Alleluia:
 - Before picking up the candles, the servers reverence the altar by bowing their heads.
 - Then pick up the candles.
 - Stay at the altar while the priest is there.
 - Priest holds up the Gospel book at the altar.
 - When the priest carries the Book of the Gospels to the ambo, the servers carry the candles to the side of the ambo and face each other.
 - When Gospel is finished, return the candles to the altar and sit down.

- **set the altar --** server w/ bracelet: sets the altar
 - Corporal
 - Roman Missal
 - Chalice
 - Purificator
 - Paten & host

- **water and wine --** server w/ bracelet: holds the wine
server w/o bracelet: holds the water
 - Priest pours wine into the chalice and then a few drops of water.

- **wash hands --** server w/ bracelet: holds the bowl
server w/o bracelet: holds cruet with water and towel over arm
 - Altar server pours water over the priest's hands. Priest takes towel from altar server's arm and dries his hands.
 - Servers kneel near the altar.

- **ring bells for epiclesis --** server w/ bracelet: rings bells
 - Priest holds his hands over the bread and wine – arms outstretched, hands facing down
 - Server rings the bells with one short ring

- **ring bells for consecration –** server w/ bracelet: rings bells
 - Priest holds up the host
 - Server rings the bells 3 short times
 - Priest holds up the chalice
 - Server rings the bells 3 short times

- **clean up altar --** server w/o bracelet: cleans up altar
 - After communion the altar is cleared.
 - Priest removes the chalice and paten
 - Server folds the corporal
 - Remember the corporal is there to catch any pieces of the Body of Christ that might fall so do not lift up the corporal. Leave it lying on the altar while folding it.
 - Server takes corporal and purificator off of the altar
 - Server takes Roman Missal to his chair

- **closing prayer --** server w/o bracelet: holds Roman Missal for priest
 - Priest says, "Let us pray"
 - Server brings Roman Missal to the priest

- **closing procession --** server w/ bracelet: carries processional crucifix
server w/o bracelet: walks out behind other server.
Holds hands with fingers pointing up.

Priest is behind the servers

Servers change who is wearing the bracelet.

Go through the Mass twice. The second time switch the roles of the servers.

When finished leave cruets, extra candle, and bracelets on “altars”.

Tell Children:

- The things in your bags are for you to pretend with. But they do remind us of something very special – the Mass – so you don’t want to just leave them on the floor where someone can step on them or throw them in your toy box where they can be smashed or lost at the bottom. When you are done playing with these, put them back in the bag or wherever you and your parents decide is a good place to store them.
- If you don’t have a crucifix in your room, you could put the one from your Mass kit there to remind you that Jesus died for you.

Stickers:

- Give each child a sticker as they leave.

Supplies:

Nametags & Permanent markers
Prayers for prayer rings
Home lessons
Snack
Plates, napkins, water & glasses
Stickers (for each child at the end of class)

Tape to mark ambo on floor
Little tables/boxes/milk crates to use as credence table
Tables or totes with lids for altars –
 If you use tables, use some children's tables for the shorter kids
Altar cloths – green plastic table cloths

Altar server BINGO
Call cards for the BINGO
Something to mark the BINGO cards with: pieces of paper, buttons,...

Mass kit for each child in gift bag

- chalice
- paten
- host
- crucifix
- bells
- cruets
- purificator
- corporal
- bowl
- hand towel
- candles – 2
- stole

Sticks for processional crucifix

Table cloth
Table decoration
Candles for special meal
Place mat
Plate
Cup/glass
Napkin

Opening prayer, Gospel, and closing prayer pages to add to children's Mass booklets

Trays to put Mass items on
Bracelets to identify which server
Extra Mass books
Extra cruets to fill with water and wine and put on altar
Water for cruets
Colored water for "wine in cruets"
Squeeze bottle to put water and wine in cruets
Bowl to dump "used wine" in

Camera