

October 9, 2011

Dear Servers, Parents and Grandparents,

Some of you may be upset with me right now, because you didn't get all 10:30 Masses as you requested. Let me explain how hard it is to prepare this schedule, and why my hair is getting grayer by the minute!!

Let me begin by giving you some statistics, which I have never thought of doing before. We have 37 Altar Servers, and feel that we are truly blessed. Of these 37 Servers, five prefer 5:00 Mass at Holy Family Youth Center, and that is the only Mass they serve. They will each serve six Masses this schedule. Four Servers prefer 8:00 AM Mass, seven prefer the 4:00 vigil Mass and – here is the biggie – twenty-one prefer 10:30 Mass. Maybe now that you see this in print, you will understand how impossible that is to honor your requests.

I am the kind of person who will normally do anything to keep someone in ministry and feel better when everyone is happy. You have told me your stories, I have listened, and I have tried to give you what you want – all 10:30s - but it simply can't be done this time. So beginning with this schedule, everyone being created equal, no one has any more than two 10:30s. When we enter into ministry, we do so with the understanding that we are here to serve. Of course when we serve, we would like it to be at the Mass of our choice, but that isn't always possible, and I know that only too well. I prefer attending the vigil Mass, but am training Sacristans at five 10:30 Masses this schedule. Sometimes "serving" means sacrifice, but I don't consider it a sacrifice. I consider it an honor, and know many of you feel the same way.

Margie is going to begin training another group of Servers soon. I suggest all of you get together, and there are over 100 of you, and pray that none of the new Servers ask for 10:30 Mass, or we will be worse off than we are right now.

Parents and grandparents, I do want to thank you for your sacrifices in getting your young Servers to Mass on time. And teens, you willingly drive to church and always arrive on time as well. I know this isn't easy, especially if you have small children. We have five children, and when they were serving up in Ohio, we never got a choice. Our sons were given their Masses, one of which was 6:00 AM Mass on a snowy Sunday morning. All Masses were rotated and we all took turns, and we were all equal, and yes, there was always a server or two at 6:00 AM Mass, and sometimes we were asked to serve at the 5:00 AM Mass at the Monastery next door. Parents weren't allowed at that Mass so we either waited in the car or went home and came back.

We all have a calling to minister, and you have answered that calling by doing His will and realizing that serving at God's altar is a gift. You are serving faithfully and generously, which is a reward beyond price. It is one of God's ways of shaping us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. And what better way to develop our own spiritual life and our personal relationship with the Lord?

God bless all of you.

Diane Sochacki,  
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries

## ALTAR SERVER NOTES

X – This person will be unavailable to serve this weekend.

\*\*Aaron and Elias Nuez have moved here from another parish and won't be ready to serve at St. Catherine until the first weekend in November. We welcome them!!

Tanya and Max Carlisle will be away many weekends during October and November. They had no specific dates when the schedules were being prepared. Contact them if you need subs for an 8:00 Mass on Sunday morning. They may be in town when you need them.

The Sacristans always try and give your names to Rob Gillmore so they can be announced at the beginning of Mass, but sometimes they get busy and may forget. They would welcome it if you would remind them.

Please continue to get your own substitute.

Please let me know by January 9<sup>th</sup> if you will be unavailable any time during the next schedule.

Thank you for your time.

Blessings,  
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