

# Acolyte Training

## Fall 2006

15 minutes before the service begins.....

- arrive at the church
- put on a red robe that fits: use a cincture (rope).
- locate the candle lighters
- determine if there is a baptism; if so, the paschal candle is also lit.
- meet with the pastors at the back of the church
- about 5 minutes before the service, light the candle lighters and process down the aisle to light the candles.
- light the candles on the altar and then turn and light the candles on the communion table and finally, the paschal candle if there is a baptism or if it is the Easter season.
- put out the flame and hang the candle lighter on the hooks on each side of the altar.
- sit down in front pew

During the service.....

- WORSHIP!!!! Follow along in the worship book; stand, sit, and pray, and sing with everyone else.
- When ushers bring the offering forward, you go to meet them (one on each side), receive the offering plates and place them on the end of the altar (both ends).
- if there is no communion, return to your pew
- Communion Sundays..... after placing the offering plates at either end of the altar, return to stand behind the pastor at the altar table, one on each side. Assisting ministers will soon join you. After you have received communion, you pick up an empty tray, and follow the servers, picking up the empty communion glasses. When communion is over, help carry all the trays into the sacristy.
- return to your pew for the closing hymn

At the end of the service.....

- sing the first verse of the hymn, and then prepare to put out the candles.
- move from your pew to the center opening in the altar rail, and then together, proceed to the altar to put out the altar candles
- Turn back to the center and BEFORE putting out the candles on the table, light your candle lighters. If the paschal candle is lit, the acolyte on that side extinguishes it.
- recess up the aisles and replace the candle lighters after putting out the flame
- hang up your robes neatly, and give thanks for the opportunity to be of service to God in our worship together

NOTE.... You are there as a child of God coming to worship your Lord. You are there to help others have a meaningful experience in worship as well. We thank you very much for your service to the rest of us!