

ST. LUKE ACOLYTE PROGRAM

ALTAR ETIQUETTE

- Sanctuary**
- 1) Temple = “Holy of Holies”
 - 2) Burning Bush = “Holy Ground”
 - 3) Sacred Space; where we meet and serve God
- Rules**
- Be Respectful of Sacred Space
- 1) Do *not* touch the Holy Table
 - 2) *Never* step in front of the Holy Table
 - 3) *Always* make the sign of the Cross when you cross behind the Holy Table

ENTERING THE ALTAR

- In General**
- 1) Ask God’s blessing (to enter His Holy Ground)
 - a. Make sign of the Cross
 - b. Venerate Icon (kiss Archangel’s hand if possible)
 - 2) Ask priest’s blessing (to serve in God’s Altar)
 - a. Wait patiently at *right* side of the Holy Table (toes at edge of carpet)
 - b. Place right hand (palm upwards) over left and say, “Father, bless.”
 - c. Receive blessing and kiss priest’s hand
- “On Duty”**
- 1) Be prepared to remain in Altar (i.e. use restroom in advance)
 - 2) Go to Acolyte Vestry (where all the robes are)
 - a. Sign in with Acolyte Coordinator
 - b. Put on Altar Robe
 - c. Get folded Stole
 - 3) Enter Altar (Don’t forget to make the sign of the Cross)
 - 4) Ask priest’s blessing (to serve in God’s Altar)
 - a. Wait patiently at *right* side of the Holy Table (toes at edge of carpet)
 - b. Hold out Stole and say, “Father, bless.”
 - c. Receive blessing and kiss priest’s hand
 - d. Step back and put on Stole
 - e. Take your place in the Altar (don’t go back to Vestry unless necessary)

ACOLYTE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Assist priest in worshipping God
Prepare Altar for Holy Services
Clean and maintain Holy Altar

ACOLYTE PRIVILEGES

Serve God in His Holy Altar
Learn the Liturgical rhythm of the Church
Grow in your Faith

ACOLYTE EXPECTATIONS

Contribute to a Prayerful Environment

- 1) Arrive on time (9:00 a.m.)
- 2) No unnecessary talking or movement
- 3) Treat everyone with respect and kindness
- 4) Be attentive and engaged in Service

Participate in Worship

- 1) Offer prayers (“Lord have mercy”, “Amen”, etc.)
- 2) Sing hymns (especially hymn of the Church)
- 3) Recite Creed and Lord’s Prayer
- 4) Assist in Liturgical actions