



St. Mary's Acolyte 2025 Fall Training

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Sr. Associate



St. Mary's 2025 Acolyte Training

✝ Agenda

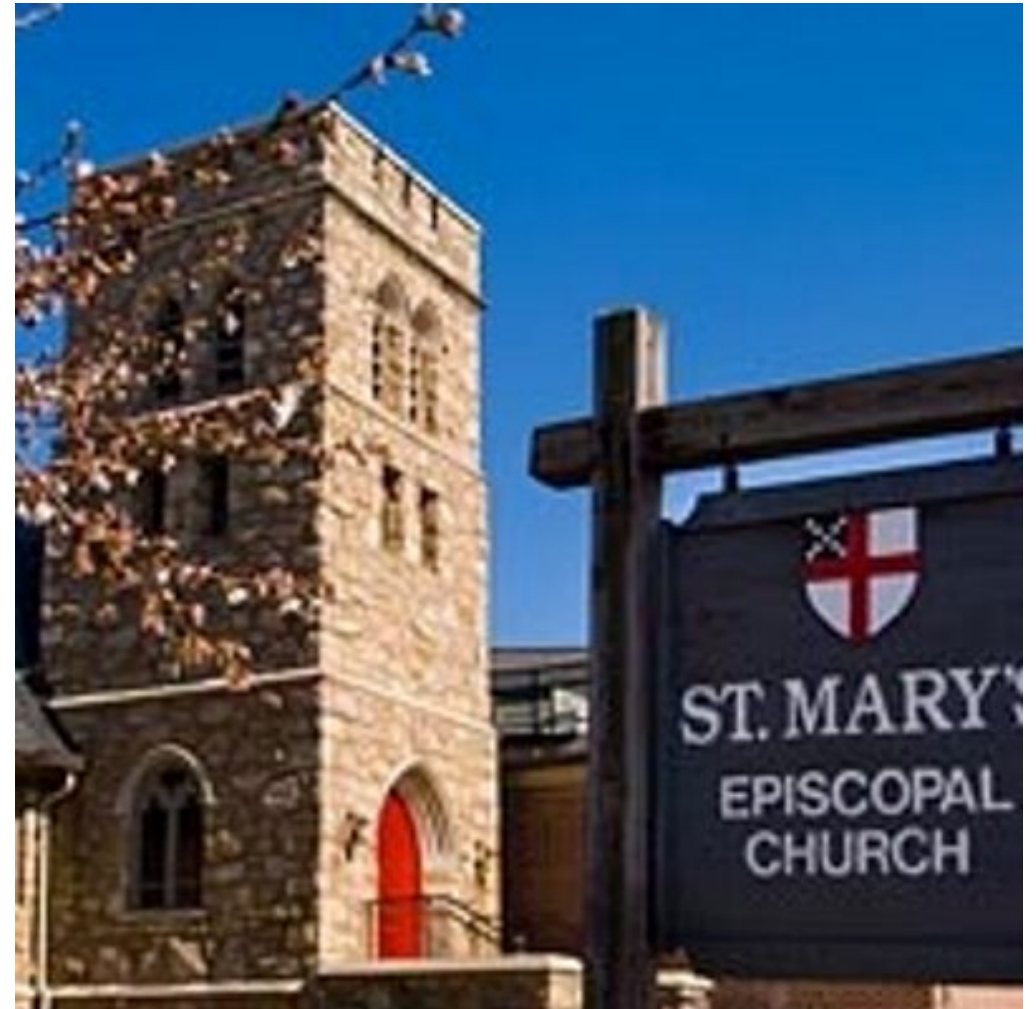
- Thank you & Welcome
- Lay Leaders – Rives Hotra/Rosanna Esposito
 - General Expectations
 - Service Notes
 - Prayers for Acolytes

St. Mary's Acolyte Training

“You have been called to a ministry where you give generously of yourselves to serve those who come to Christ’s table, seeking a deeper relationship and experience of God. “

~Canon Rose Duncan~

Washington National Cathedral



St. Mary's 2025 Acolyte Training

✝ Welcome

- ✝ The ministry of acolyte is a serving ministry of the Church that comes from ancient times. From those days until now, acolytes have been faithful and conscientious men, women, boys, and girls who love the Lord Jesus Christ and love serving Him at his sacred altar.
- ✝ It is an honor to be selected as one who serves, and truly a ministry to God and God's people. As senior associate of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome each of you to this sacred duty. You are joining a dedicated team of adults and young people who take seriously their service to God and the Church.
- ✝ With God's help, and with the help of your lay leaders, Rives and Rosanna, the acolyte corps at St. Mary's will continue to be among the finest in the Church, setting an example for all to follow.
- ✝ May God Bless you in your ministry of liturgical leadership, and may you be filled with the peace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit



St. Mary's Acolyte Training

Acolyte: This general term covers not only servers, torchbearers, and lighters of candles, but also crucifers, thurifers, and banner-bearers.

Acolytes are mentioned in a minor order (along with porters, lectors, and exorcists) as early as a letter of Pope Cornelius to Fabius of Antioch in CE 252.

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They were also mentioned in Cyprian's writing. They assisted deacons or subdeacons at the presentation of the table. Later, they carried candles in processions. In Rome, they carried fragments of the bread consecrated at the papal Mass to other churches. In the late Middle Ages, when candles began to appear upon altars, they lit the altar candles.

St. Cyprian

"No one can have
God as Father
who does not
have the Church
as Mother."

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✝ General Expectations

- On the day of service, you will take direction from the “celebrant” (i.e., the priest celebrating at the service you are working).
- Health and Safety – if you are ill before a service, please let your coordinator know (Rives/Rosanna) so that a substitute can be secured. If you become sick during a service, please let someone know and excuse yourself.
- Scheduling – Rives Hotra & Rosanna Esposito

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✝ General Expectations

▪ Vestments and Dress

- A red cassock with a white surplice is available in the vesting room if you do not own your own.
- Formal black shoes are preferred. Do not wear flip-flops or open-toed shoes of any kind.
- Do not wear or affix pins, buttons, or other ornaments to vestments.

▪ Preparation and Arrival

- Prayerful preparation is key
- Please remember to wash your hands prior to service
- 8:00AM Holy Eucharist - Arrive by 7:15 AM
- 10:00AM Holy Eucharist – Arrive by 9:15 AM



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† General Expectations

▪ Service Attentiveness

- You are expected to participate in all aspects of the service: responding to prayer, reciting creeds, singing hymns, and being attentive to the readings and sermon
- Do not chew gum
- Be mindful of your posture
- **You never know where the camera is pointing . . . It may be pointed at you.**



St. Mary's Acylote Training

Liturgy – derived from Greek words for “people” and “work.” The church’s public worship of God is the work of the Christian people.

St. Mary's has three centers of liturgical space: the space where Scriptures are read, the place where new members of the community are initiated, and the place where the community gathers to eat its sacred food. The **Ambo**, the **Font**, and the **Table**.

Rember: We become what we eat . . . (Augustine).



St. Mary's EV/EM Spring Training

Questions



St. Mary's Acolyte Training

Prayers for Acolytes

Episcopal Prayer

Almighty God, who has called us your servants to the sacred office of Acolyte in your church, that clothed in white we may minister before you, we pray your great mercy to guide, strengthen, and sanctify us by your Holy Spirit, that, always doing your will, we may both by our service in your house and by our daily life, please you and glorify your Name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Catholic Prayer

God of mercy, through your only Son, you entrusted the bread of life to your Church. Bless our (sister/brother) who has been chosen for the ministry of acolyte. Grant that this human being may be faithful in the service of your altar.

Lutheran Prayer

May we your servants point to him. Shine in the hearts of your congregation, to give the light of the knowledge of your glory, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Order of Acolytes

Almighty, everlasting God, Fountain of light and Source of goodness, who has enlightened the world through Jesus Christ Thy Son, the true light, and hast redeemed it through the mystery of His Passion, vouchsafe to + bless these Thy servants whom we ordain to the office of acolyte. We beseech Thee in Thy mercy to illumine their minds with the light of knowledge, and to refresh them with the dew of Thy tender love, that with Thy help they may so fulfill the office assumed as to attain an everlasting reward. Through the same Christ our Lord. R. Amen.



**May God Continue
To Bless You**

Thank you!