

**Mass for Archdiocesan Altar Server Day
October 5, 2019**

What is the Mass? Who knows what it is we are doing here at the Holy Mass? Those are good answers! The truth is that we do not have the ability to fully express how amazing Mass is. We are here with Jesus at the foot of heaven, worshipping God in union with the whole Church, including everyone in heaven and all the angels. That is amazing, isn't it? Jesus has revealed to us the glory of the mysteries of heaven, just like he said in the Gospel. You are here today because you have been called to serve at his holy altar, and we are so grateful for your service.

It can be easy to lose sight of the amazing gift of the Mass. We go to Mass every Sunday. Some of you may even go during the week or even every day. My brother seminarians, my fellow priests, the religious women and men who are here, and many of the lay people here know about going to Mass every day. Sometimes, though, when we go to Mass again and again, it can start to become "ordinary" to us. But this is never true. The Mass is never ordinary.

Jesus talks about the truth he shares saying, "Many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it." In the same way, many people crave to come close to God like we get to do here at Mass, but they do not have the chance. Every time we come to Mass we receive a gift that we cannot even fully understand it is so great. So, today I ask you, dear altar servers of the archdiocese, to renew your love for the Mass and for your service at the altar.

You are ministers at the altar of the Lord. That is amazing! You have a very important job in the Church, and you will be exploring that beautiful work here today. But let me share with you the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis when he met with 60,000 altar servers from around the world last year: “There is no need for lots of words; more important are your actions, your closeness, your desire to serve, gazing before the Most Blessed Sacrament. In this way, you will also help others to see how beautiful the community of believers is, because the Lord dwells in its midst.”

Now, we do not have 60,000, but you are 300 servants of the altar of God. Take the pope’s words to heart. You can help the Church see God more clearly as you serve. You can show your love for God in the Holy Mass and help the church love him more as you serve. It is a beautiful ministry, and we thank you so much for saying yes.

I pray that your day is fruitful and beautiful. Be sure to get to know the other servers from throughout the archdiocese so that you can be united in your service. I ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to be with you today with her prayers. Serve the Lord like she did, and help show people the beauty of God.