

HOST CLASS ROLES

for the 10:30 AM REACH Liturgy

Each Grade 4 – 6 classroom takes a turn during the REACH school year as the Host Class for the 10:30 AM REACH Liturgy according to the Host Class schedule with each teacher.

What is the Host Class? At each REACH Sunday 10:30 AM Mass in the church hall one classroom has the honor to bring up and “dress” the altar with the altar cloth and the candles, to bring up and present the bread and wine, and to conduct the collection of the weekly church offering envelopes. The Host Class also remains after Mass to assist in the folding and putting away of the metal chairs used at Mass.

On a classroom’s first scheduled Host Class Sunday the teacher explains during class time what the Host Class is and assigns roles to selected students. Teachers often rehearse with the class before Mass. Being Host Class sometimes needs to be done once before students feel assured. During the Mass itself the students are guided by the liturgy planners as to the procedure and timing of their role as Host Class.

Host Class Roles

- Students perform their roles with respect and reverence and do not rush.
 - Ideally, at least eight students are needed: two for the candles, one for the altar cloth, three for the gifts, and two for the collection baskets. Teachers select the students for these tasks in advance before Mass.
 - After the Petitions (“Let us pray to the Lord.”) are read, the teacher and class walk to the back of the hall to the table on the right-hand side where the altar cloths and candles are.
 - A liturgy planner will hand to each student what each is to carry.
 - The students line up at the back of the hall in this order:
 - * Two candle bearers
 - * Two collection basket bearers
 - * Two altar cloth bearers
 - * Two bread and wine bearers.
 - A liturgy planner assists in the timing and release of each group toward the altar.
- 1.** The two **CANDLE BEARERS** lead the procession. They walk slowly down the aisle, then stop beside the first row of chairs and face each other, leaving enough room for the other Host Class students to walk past them.
 - 2.** Next the students with the **COLLECTION BASKETS** walk up to the first row on either side and hand the basket to the first student seated there. Each row will pass the basket down the row and to the next row.

(more)

3. Next the students carrying the **ALTAR CLOTHS** walk up after the candle bearers. The teacher stands at the altar to help arrange the altar cloths. After the altar cloths are placed, the altar cloth students return to their seats.
4. After the altar cloths are completely in place, the students with **THE BREAD AND WINE** walk up and place the gifts on the altar. If the priest should approach them to receive the bread and wine, they hand the bread and wine to the priest. Then they return to their seats.
5. After the bread and wine have been placed, the **CANDLE BEARERS** leave their position at the first row of chairs, place their candles at the left and right edges of the altar, and return to their seats.
6. After all rows have passed the collection baskets, the **COLLECTION BASKET STUDENTS** take the baskets, walk up to the altar, and neatly lay the baskets in the front of the altar. Then they return to their seats.

❖ **IMPORTANT: After Mass ends,** the Host Class remains in the hall to help fold up and put away the metal chairs on the rolling chair racks.