

CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER ACOLYTE MINISTRY

Youth in grades 7th through 12th are invited to serve in the Acolyte Ministry.

Acolytes perform an important role supporting the clergy in a variety of tasks during worship, including:

- ❖ Lighting and extinguishing candles in chancel
- ❖ Processing the cross and torches
- ❖ Carrying and holding the Gospel book
- ❖ Assisting in the preparation of the altar
- ❖ Collecting the offertory plates for the blessing
- ❖ Processing banners and the dove kite
- ❖ Serving as thurifer and censing the congregation, priests, and altar
- ❖ Administering the chalice at Communion (16 years and older)
- ❖ Leading acolyte teams
- ❖ Assisting the vergers with training

Acolytes are organized by teams and serve approximately once or twice a month at regularly scheduled Sunday services. Additional opportunities arise during festival services such as Christmas and Easter.

Formal training is provided in September by the vergers and senior acolytes. Informal training for new acolytes occur during the summer prior to each service by the vergers. New acolytes start with simpler tasks and work their way up over time to more complicated tasks. Advancement is at their own pace, with some taking on more responsibility sooner than others as they demonstrate they are ready for it.

In addition to helping enhance our worship at Holy Comforter, acolytes can accrue school community service hours, fulfill scouting prerequisites, and earn citations for college applications. Acolyte service, over time, will help youth realize the value in undertaking responsibility, acquiring leadership skills, and fulfilling commitments to others. But most importantly, as an acolyte they are demonstrating their dedication to God through service.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to any of the vergers:

- ❖ Andy Pettigrew, pettigri@cox.net
- ❖ Ashley Boam, ashley.boam@fda.hhs.gov
- ❖ Kim Brailey, kimbrailey@gmail.com
- ❖ Margy Collom, mcollom@aol.com
- ❖ Andrew Eastman, aeastman@holycomforter.com

To register to become an acolyte, please let our head verger, Andrew Eastman, know by sending him an email at the above address.

