

# LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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Vatican II documents on the liturgy describe the Eucharist as "the source and summit of our faith."

We recognize that our Mass, our Lord's Supper, both feeds our faith life, and is a fairly complete expression of who we are, and who we are called to be as people of God.

With such a challenging identity, we recognize that it is appropriate to apply our best energy and gifts to this gathering of prayer and sacrament.

At Rockhurst there are many ways to enter into the liturgical life of the student community. We recognize that different people have different gifts, and we are eager for you to bring your gifts to the table!

We list the liturgical ministries in which you can be involved, and we hope that you consider serving your classmates through your talents, skills, and generosity!

Get an application in the CM Office or online under "Leadership & Service" at the CM website.

*ALL MINISTRIES (EXCEPT FOR MUSIC MINISTERS) REQUIRE A TWILIGHT RETREAT WHICH INCLUDES DINNER, MINISTRY EXPLANATION, PRAYER, REFLECTION, AND TRAINING.*

## Serving as a Liturgical Minister

Office of Campus Ministry  
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[www.rockhurst.edu/studentlife/ministry](http://www.rockhurst.edu/studentlife/ministry)

## Serving as a Liturgical Minister



Rockhurst University  
Campus Ministry



## ***EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER***

Along with breaking open and sharing the Word of God, a major part of the Mass is the breaking of the Bread of Life and the sharing of the Cup of Salvation—our Communion.

Communion is a major sign of the inclusive hospitality of Christ who calls us all to the table, who unifies us, with all our differences, through Christ's very presence in the signs of Bread and Wine.

The Eucharistic Minister is servant, host and helper. The Eucharistic Minister assists in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Eucharistic Minister needs to be a practicing Catholic with a respect, understanding, and reverence for the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The person should also be someone whose presence is welcoming to others. In sharing the Bread and Wine, the minister is communicating to others the real presence of Christ. This joyful and loving task is a real ministry of the whole person at Mass.

## ***LECTOR***

The Lector is responsible for proclaiming the Word of God known to us through the Scriptures. The Lector speaks the stories of God to the people of God.

The Lector needs to be a clear speaker, capable of addressing a group in a large

space (Saint Francis Xavier Church) with understanding and confidence. Some experience with public speaking is helpful but not required.

The Lector needs to be willing to prepare for the reading. Usually this means getting the reading in advance, reflecting on the passage, and studying enough to understand the meaning of the text. Commentaries (explanations of the texts) are available through Campus Ministry. Campus Ministers are also available to help with the understanding of Scriptural texts.

A Lector must do his or her part to make sure that the public reading of the Word of God is done reverently, knowledgeably, and expressively.

## ***GREETER— USHER***

A major dynamic underscoring our Eucharistic gathering is hospitality. A significant ministerial sign of that hospitality is the Greeter/Usher.

More than someone who just "hands out the Bulletin," the Greeter/Usher is the first face of the Mass. This minister's smile, welcoming presence, and attentiveness to people's needs are genuine signs of what the Eucharist is meant to do: namely, to nourish us so that we might serve others.

The Greeter/Usher welcomes people into our worship, helps with any special needs, and makes sure that people have the materials they need to fully participate in worship (hymn books, song sheets, bulletins, etc.).

## ***ALTAR SERVER***

Each Mass has a certain amount of actions or tasks that are aided by an Altar Server. This ministry requires someone with a knowledge of the progression of the Mass and an ability to "think on your feet."

This person carries the cross in the entrance procession, holds the Sacramentary for the presider, and helps with the sacred vessels used at Mass.

The ministry needs someone who is comfortable in front of group, who can take direction, and who can move gracefully and reverently as a situation of public prayer would require.

## ***SACRISTAN***

At any dinner party, the host takes great care in setting the table and preparing the food for celebration. The same dynamic happens at Mass. The Sacristan prepares for our celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Before Mass starts, the Sacristan sets the altar with special vessels and linens, and prepares the bread and wine for offering.

The ministry needs someone who has an attention for detail and a sense of artistic reverence.

## ***MUSIC MINISTER***

Music is the gift of the assembly to God and to each other. Singing at Mass adds delight to the prayers, fosters union of heart through the union of voices, and confers a solemnity on our act of worship.

Singers and instrumentalists lead the congregation and encourage everyone to participate actively. This ministry needs capable singers and musicians who are willing to share their gifts.