

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
Altar Boys Meeting & Orientation  
October 9, 2022

1. All altar boys should be in the altar no later than 9:45 AM, group leaders no later than 9:30 AM, ready to serve. Please don't be late. It is not proper to interrupt the priest to bless your robe once the Liturgy has begun. Please inform your parents. Of course, you are welcome to serve even if you are late, but that should be the exception, not the norm. Also, make every effort to be in church on your assigned Sunday. There is too much inconsistency in the number of altar boys we have each week, and this makes it difficult to ensure all duties are covered, such as reading the Epistle, holding baskets for Communion, and more.
2. Wear dark dress shoes, dark socks, and dark pants at all times when serving in the altar. Please, do not wear shorts, sandals, or sneakers.
3. Each altar boy has been assigned to a specific group (Group 1, 2, 3, or 4). Each group has at least one leader. Alex Malian is the altar leader and Costa Mendrinis is the associate leader. They oversee all groups and group leaders. Group 1 serves on the first Sunday of the month, Group 2 on the second, and so on. Whenever there is a fifth Sunday of the month, the Group Leaders will serve.  
*\*Group Leaders: If you cannot make it to church on your assigned Sunday, please notify Alex ASAP.*
4. If your name does not appear on the Altar Group Schedule, please notify Father Michael, Alex, or Costa.
5. Altar boys are welcome to serve as often as they like. However, only boys from the scheduled group will remain until the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All other boys will dismiss to Sunday School. **ALL ALTAR BOYS ARE EXPECTED TO BE REGISTERED AND ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL!**
6. When arriving at the church, enter the altar through the vestry door. Wash your hands in the vestry restroom; then, proceed to the altar boys room to remove your coat and obtain your robe and belt. Group leaders should be there to assist. Come to the priest (or the Metropolitan) to receive the blessing to serve in the altar. Please try to come all together or in two large groups as opposed to coming individually. Put your robe and belt on in the altar boys room and then return to the altar.
7. The altar is the most sacred area of the church. We are on our best behavior here. Altar boys symbolize the angels who attend and guard this holy space. We refrain from talking. When necessary, we whisper. Be aware of how you are standing or sitting in the altar. We should not be casual when standing, nor slouching when sitting. Be sure to cover your mouth when you have to yawn, cough, or sneeze. When we are in procession or standing outside of the altar, there is absolutely no talking, nor should our eyes wander. We look straight ahead. And no twirling of fans, processional cross, or candles at any time.
8. No altar boys should "hang out" in the altar boys room. Time there should be at a minimum. Group leaders and older boys should not send younger boys into the altar, while they sit in the back and talk. Inappropriate language and topics of conversation are unacceptable. Likewise, everyone should be sitting in the pews for the sermon, and please, no cellphone use while serving in the altar.

9. Remember that altar boys never walk in front of the altar table. We only walk behind it. When we do, we make the sign of the cross.
10. When it is time to leave the altar, hang up your robes, and store your belt. If you cannot hang them, drape them gently and respectfully over a chair. One of the group leaders will hang them for you. Under no condition should they be thrown on the floor. Group leaders, please do not leave until everyone has hung up their robes and you have checked with Alex. You may be needed to help with something before you leave.
11. Please keep the altar boys room clean and organized at all times.
12. Bullying of any kind is not permitted. If it should occur, notify Father Michael immediately.
13. If you would like to try a new task in the altar, please let a group leader know. Serving in the altar should be a learning experience for all of us.
14. If you are reading the Epistle, make sure the microphone is turned on, at the proper height, and that you speak loudly and clearly into it.
15. If you would like to be a reader that we can call upon, please inform Father Michael or Alex.
16. Father Michael encourages all our altar boys to become familiar with the Ages Initiative website: [www.agesinitiatives.org](http://www.agesinitiatives.org).
17. If you have any questions, please notify Father Michael or Alex.
18. Alex may be reached by call or text anytime at (586) 506-1567, or [a.malian@goassumption.org](mailto:a.malian@goassumption.org)