

Ministry Opportunities at St. John the Evangelist Church, Kitchener Altar Guild Member

At St. John's, our various ministries support our intention to be a faithful and thriving community.

Connecting individuals and ministries is an act of mutual discernment – you may wonder which ministry is the best fit for you at this time, and the community may recognize gifts in you and encourage you to share them as we seek to be a thriving community.

The community also has some expectations for ministries. Knowing these expectations can help you and the community discern which ministry makes sense for you at this time. Some ministries also include a trial time to assist further in this discernment.

How does this ministry contribute to living as a faithful and thriving community and your life of discipleship?

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (Ps. 29: 2, 1 Chron. 16: 29; Ps. 96: 9).

Members of the Altar Guild have the responsibility and privilege of tending to the beauty of worship. They serve God and the parish by preparing the Sanctuary for worship and maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels and altar linens.

What gifts and skills are helpful for this role?

- Familiarity with, or willingness to learn, Anglican liturgical traditions
- Careful attention to detail
- Communicant of the parish
- Able to work as part of a team

What to expect:

- The coordinator will provide new altar guild members with orientation and training, and ongoing support.
- The coordinator schedules members for Sunday services and additional services, for example, during Advent, Lent and Holy Week, and for weddings and funerals. The frequency of serving will depend on the number of members.

Responsibilities:

All duties are under the direction of the Rector. The Rector appoints the altar guild coordinator. New members are recruited by either the coordinator or the Rector.

Member Responsibilities:

- Preparing all vessels, linens, missals, and furnishings for services
- Assuring supplies and maintenance of bread, wine, and candles for all services including weddings and funerals
- Polishing silver and brass, and caring for sanctuary furnishings and carvings
- Preparing and placing memorial flowers
- Planning and co-ordinating decorations for festivals (e.g., Christmas, Easter, Harvest)
- Making and embroidering altar linens and hangings (as members are able)
- Sharing the work of laundering and ironing of linens (as members are able)

Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Providing orientation and training for new members, including expectations for length of initial commitment.
- Providing ongoing support for members, including checking in on their willingness and ability to continue in this role.
- Creating a schedule and communicating it to members and the Parish Administrator.

Accountability:

Members are accountable to the coordinator and the Rector. The coordinator is accountable to the Rector.

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