

FR. BRAD HAGELIN

PASTOR

My dear Kirkland Catholics,

I am writing to ask for your help. As I will mention at Mass this weekend, we have a major shortage of liturgical ministers such that at most weekend Masses we have folks pulling double duty. They usually don't mind because it doesn't require any additional time commitment to serve in multiple liturgical roles, but it is not actually allowed by diocesan policy. Why? Because as Baptized believers we are meant to serve, and as Catholics we are invited to have the opportunity to take roles at Mass, and I desire for as many folks as possible to take a role at Mass. I can speak for my experience as an altar server as a child, that it helped me to feel way more engaged at Mass because I was a part of it. If you have a child who is between 5th and 9th grade, I'd strongly encourage you to encourage them to consider it and at least be trained before making a decision if they would like to serve.

I believe taking a liturgical role also helps adults feel a bit more connected. The only qualification for being a Lector or Eucharistic Minister is having received Confirmation, and – if one is married – that one is married in the Catholic Church. Those two requirements do not apply to sacristans or ushers. The time commitment for these four roles is not substantial granted that one is already coming to a Sunday liturgy, and so I am hoping that we have 30 adults step forward to serve in these four roles (like seven new ministers in each role). We will have a training session on Sunday, March 16 between the Sunday Masses; and you are welcome to come and train to “find out” before making a commitment to serve. If you feel called to serve in one of these roles but are not able to come on March 16, I would ask that you reach out to the parish office and express your interest and we will get you trained.

Thank you for your generosity and consideration!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Brad