

- Walk to the front of the church in an unhurried manner.
- Stop at the bottom of the steps in front of the altar.
- Look at the cross and bow your head for a brief moment.
- Walk up the steps toward the altar and then turn until you are in front of the candle on the left near the baptismal font, light it, then continue lighting the candles towards the right (the choir side).
- Extinguish the flame by lowering the taper and then put it back up once extinguished. (Never blow out the flame!)
- Place the candle lighting staff behind the alter screen on the baptismal font side.

After the service

- At the end of the service, after the Pastor has left the altar, walk slowly up the aisle.
- Stop at the edge of the step.
- Look at the cross and bow your head for a brief moment
- Retrieve the candle lighting staff from behind the alter screen on the baptismal font side.
- With the bell facing forward, walk to the candle on the left as you face the altar and extinguish the candles in the same order as they were lit.
- When you have extinguished all the candles, return and place the candle lighting staffs behind the alter screen on the baptismal font side
- When you have finished, walk into the center at the top of the steps, bow for a moment before the cross, turn and walk slowly back up the aisle.
- Thank you for serving God in this way.

Acolyting 101

for Middle & High School 'Hands & Feet' Students at St Michael's



Acolyting at St Michael's

A Ministry of Hospitality -

The word acolyte is from an ancient Greek work that means attendant, or “follower”. When one serves as an acolyte, they are following or living out their baptismal vocation.

An important part of acolyting is to light and extinguish the candles on the altar.

We gather as a family of Christ at the altar for our holy meal – communion. The cross above the altar is a symbol of Christ's presence. When you approach the Lord's Table reverently you are expressing honor and respect.

Lighted candles remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Light and fire also remind us that God is here with us. When you bring the light (fire) into the sanctuary where people are gathering to worship, and when you light the candles, you are reminding the people that God is with us at home, at school, and at work as well as in the worship service.

Who gets to be an acolyte?

Here at St Michael's, Hands & Feet students who opt to be involved serving in this area of ministry are scheduled on a rotating basis to serve as acolytes.

- You are scheduled for a worship service on Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 8:15 and/or 10:45 am on a rotating basis. Frequency is determined by how many students there are.
- The monthly schedule is emailed to you in good time beforehand. You will also receive a reminder by email the week you are scheduled to serve.
- If you cannot attend the service you are assigned, you must contact Martin Cornes in plenty of time beforehand to switch dates.



Guidelines for Acolyting

What to wear

- Acolytes should be properly attired for this role.
- Boys: Dress shirt/pants (no tennis shoes)
- Girls: Appropriate neck and hemline – clothes should cover shoulder to knee (no tennis shoe)
- Do not chew gum and keep your phone out of sight.

Arrive at least 15 minutes before the Service -

- Retrieve the candle lighting staff and lighter located behind the alter screen on the baptismal font side. Carry them to the bottom of the steps at the front of the church.
- Place them ready for use on a seat or pew.

Before the Service

- About 10 minutes before the start of the service ask an Usher to light the taper for you. (Be sure the taper (wick) is up enough to light.)
- Hold the candle lighting staff in front of you with the bell pointing downward and the flame pointing up.
- Have one hand near the adjustment knob (pin) to regulate the length of the taper so that it does not go out.