

Worship Participant Opportunities for Children and Youth

In the past—and for many of us growing up—the Church often put children in Church School or would babysit them in the basement while adults worshiped. With the realization that children are an integral part of the “Whole People of God,” children have been invited “up from the basement” in recent decades, to be included in the worship of the Church. But often they are still expected to be “seen but not heard.” Not at St. Timothy’s 9:00 am Eucharist!

The 9:00 am Eucharist at St. Timothy’s invites the participation of people of all ages, particularly the children and youth of the parish. Church leaders of many denominations have found that such participation in the worship of the Church gives young people a greater sense of purpose and belonging in the Church community. We encourage your family’s participation in these different areas of service.

If your children are not scheduled and are interested in any of these roles, please contact the Church Office.

Acolytes

Youth in the **6th grade and up** serve as Acolytes at the 9:00 am Eucharist. Some youth also serve at the 11:15 am Eucharist. Acolytes are typically scheduled to serve 1 or 2 Sundays each month and are called on to substitute at other times. Training for new acolytes is provided in the fall, or mid-year by arrangement. Acolyte schedules are sent out quarterly and reminders are sent to acolytes the week preceding scheduled times. If an acolyte is unable to serve as scheduled, **call Mark Cornelissen or the Church Office** as early as possible. For more information and specific guidelines on Acolyte functions, please see the *Family Eucharist Acolyte Handbook*.

Contact: Mark Cornelissen

Ushers

All children in the **2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades** are invited to serve as ushers at the 9:00 am Eucharist. Ushers are typically scheduled to serve once every 5-6 weeks and are called on to substitute at other times. Responsibilities consist of passing out bulletins in the foyer before the service and taking up the collection at the Offertory. Adult ushers assist during Communion. The usher schedule is sent out quarterly. If your child is unable to serve as scheduled, **please call the Church Office** as early as possible so that we can arrange for a substitute.

Readers/Psalmists

Children in the **5th grade and up** are invited to serve as Readers/Psalmists on Sunday mornings at the 9:00 am Eucharist. These Readers/Psalmists are typically scheduled to serve once every four to six months and are called on to substitute at other times. As with acolytes, schedules are sent out quarterly and reminders are sent out the preceding week. Reminders include the text for the given Sunday, as well as a description of what to say before and after the reading. Parents of younger lectors are encouraged to go over readings with children in advance. If your son or daughter is unable to read at a scheduled time, please **contact the Church Office** as early as possible.

Oblationers

Families, couples and individuals serve as Oblationers. (Oblationers are the people who bring up the wine and bread to the altar at the Offertory.) All who attend the 9:00 am Eucharist are encouraged to participate in this way and we rotate the role through the members of the congregation. If you or your family have not been scheduled and you would like to, please **contact the Church Office**.