

Acolytes serve the congregation during worship. You are part of the worship leadership.

You have specific duties that only you do. Acolytes light candles, receive the offering, extinguish candles, assist with communion, assist with baptisms, and more.

How Does An Acolyte Dress?

Everybody who participates in the service dresses according to their role. The pastor wears a robe and a stole. Acolytes wear acolyte robes.

One reason we wear robes is to remind ourselves and the congregation of our baptism. Secondly, the robes help the congregation recognize you as a worship leader, and that is what you are. Appear neat and clean. Hands are important and dress shoes are preferable over tennis shoes.

Where are the robes located?

Robes are located in the basement on a rack in the area outside the restrooms at Mindoro and in the communion room at Lewis Valley. When your service is completed, it is your responsibility to return your robe and cincture neatly to the hanger where you found it.

Duties of an Acolyte:

1. Arrive at church no later than 15 minutes prior to the service beginning.
2. Get robe and cincture (rope belt) on.
3. Check through the order of worship and ask Pastor if there are special instructions for the day. Such as: Check to see if the Paschal Candle is to be lit, if there is a baptism, special offering, etc.
4. Light the altar candles. Candles are lit 5-10 minutes prior to the beginning of the service.

How to light candles:

*Walk to the altar and pause for five seconds in front/center.

*Move to the candles to be lit and begin lighting them, from the top (inside) to the bottom.

*Return to the front of the altar and face it. Pause for five seconds. Hang up the lighter behind the altar at Mindoro and by the chair at Lewis Valley. Return to rear of church and bring the cross to be ready for the service.

5. Be at the back of the sanctuary and be ready for service no later than 8:25am at Lewis Valley and 9:55am at Mindoro with the cross.

6. Receive the Offering. As the ushers gather the offering, stand facing the congregation, in front of the communion rail. The ushers will come forward and hand you the offering plates. Stand up straight, make eye contact, turn and hand plates to Pastor. Return to your seat.

If there is communion, you will have a tray or basket to collect cups, follow the assistants who are distributing the wine.

7. Extinguish candles *during the first verse of the last hymn*, starting on the bottom outside.

At the beginning of the last verse, go, lift the cross, come to the center, and turn down the aisle. The Pastor follows you down the aisle. Return the cross to the corner where it belongs. Make sure it is stable and will not be knocked over or fall on someone.

Remember:

If you will be absent, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and notify the church office (so that it can be listed correctly in the bulletin) of the change as soon as possible. When you don't show up and don't find a replacement, everybody knows it, because your name will be in the bulletin.

If you come late, we will begin the service without you because we need to begin on time. Remain for the service in a pew.

Participate in the service:

You are expected to sing, read prayers and service responses. At Mindoro, you will not be able to see the screen so you must follow the page numbers listed in the bulletin for the hymnal.

NO gum.

When sitting up front, keep your feet on the floor, your robe neat and do not place hymnal or worship notes, pens, etc. on the floor.