

THE MASS – Lesson 4

Who Are They?

WHO'S WHO. Creating a meaningful and spirit-filled celebration of the Mass is truly a group effort. It takes numerous ministry groups, during preparation and celebration, for each Catholic Mass to run smoothly and with grace. In liturgical celebrations each person, minister or layman, who has an office to perform, should do all of, but only, those parts which pertain to his office by the nature of the rite and the principles of liturgy. But who are these people who serve to make the Mass a meaningful and spirit-filled celebration?

1. **READERS** – The person(s) who will proclaim (read) the First and Second Readings from the **LECTIONARY** (a book that contains selections of Sacred Scripture – from the Bible - arranged for use in the Mass) to the congregation (the people who gather to worship).
2. **SERVER** – Also known as an **ALTAR SERVER** or an **ACOLYTE**. A person who assists the celebrant of the Mass.
3. **DEACON** – An ordained man who may proclaim the Gospel and assist the celebrant at the altar.
4. **CELEBRANT** – A priest or bishop who is presiding at the Mass.
5. **CONCELEBRANT** – A priest who is not presiding at the Mass.

DID YOU KNOW. Catholic youths, in the 4th grade or above are eligible to become altar servers. Learning to server involves attending a simple, short training course to learn the duties and terms. Catholic adults of any age are also eligible to serve.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.

1. Who actually celebrates the Mass?
2. What is a reader? server? deacon? celebrant?

THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND MASS. Watch the altar server(s) to see how they assist the celebrant.