Assisting the Priest at the Altar

Begins right after the Prayer of the Faithful

1) Prepare the Table (the altar)

- Place the Roman Missal on the altar (if it is on the credence table)
- Place the chalice with purificator, paten, and pall on the corporal (square white cloth)
- Place the two extra cups on either side of the chalice slightly behind the chalice.
- Place the water cruet off to the side of the chalice.

2) Assist with the Gifts

- Step down to help receive the bread and wine from the gift bearers.
- The priest will then mix water with the wine and pour the wine into the chalice and cups.
- Take the wine decanter from the priest, place the top on it, and place it on the credence table.

3) Lavabo (Handwashing)

- Bring water cruet, bowl, and towel from the credence table
- The priest holds his hands over the bowl
- Pour a small amount of water over the priest's fingers
- The priest dries his hands with the towel
- Return items to credence table
- Sit in your usual place.

4) The priest consecrates the bread and wine.

5) Post-Communion

- Receive communion vessels from Eucharistic Ministers and place them on the altar
- Bring to the altar from the credence table a cruet of water (for cleaning the vessels)
- The priest will clean each vessel and set each aside for you to place on the credence table.
- After all vessels have been cleaned and placed on the credence table, you may sit in your seat.

After Mass you may assist the Eucharistic Ministers by:

- Extinguishing candles
- Returning vessels to the sacristy

Remember

- Move slowly and reverently
- Watch the priest for cues
- Silence is part of your service

“Serve with reverence—the Eucharist is why we are here.”