

## *Acolytes for Weddings at Holy Trinity*

The acolyte, usually the crucifer, and sometimes also torch bearers are important parts of the Episcopal Marriage Ceremony. While some may be very experienced, this information sheet is provided just in case there are questions about the service and duties of the acolyte. Holy Trinity thanks you all for being willing to serve as an acolyte.

Most weddings are scheduled for Saturdays with a rehearsal on Friday.

### **Friday**

The acolyte should arrive at the scheduled time of the rehearsal.

During the rehearsal he/she will be instructed on where to stand, walk, how to hold the cross and torches (mostly by the clergy). At the beginning of the rehearsal, usually, the wedding guild representative takes the acolyte upstairs to choose his/her robe and have them laid out for him/her to vest in Saturday upon arrival. (Bride and Groom are signing the wedding license at the very beginning of the rehearsal) There will be a walk through of the wedding procession, service and recession at the rehearsal. Wedding acolytes are free to leave as soon as the rehearsal ends on Friday. (Most rehearsals last one hour)

### **Saturday, wedding day**

The acolyte should arrive **one hour before the wedding begins** to put on the robe and belt, then light the altar candles. A wedding guild member will instruct the acolyte on this task and point out where the lighters are. The crucifer will retrieve the cross from the front of the church, place it along the wall of the back row for the procession.

**Ceremony:** After the seating of the mothers, the crucifer leads the procession followed by the torch bearers, then the clergy, groom and best man, then groomsmen. The Wedding Guild personnel lines everyone up including the acolyte, so he/she does not have to worry about remembering when to begin. At the end, the crucifer will lead the clergy down the aisle after the mothers are ushered out. Sometimes the torch bearers remain seated and do not recess. That will be decided at the rehearsal.

The acolyte is free to leave after he/she replaces the cross and hangs the vestments back in the upstairs closet. Most weddings are 30 - 45 minutes in length.

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