

**WORSHIP TEAMS AT ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q. Why do we use lay worship teams at St. Nicholas Church?**

A. There are many reasons we organize and schedule our lay worship servers by teams at St. Nicholas Church.

- **Respecting the Ministry of the Laity.** At St. Nick's we believe that lay ministry is just as important and just as responsible as ordained ministry, especially when it comes to the liturgy. After all liturgy literally means "the work of the people." Using lay worship teams is one of the ways to try to allow for greater involvement of lay people in the worship service.
- **Building Spiritual Community.** Each lay worship team is meant to be a microcosm of our Christian community: a miniature spiritual community in itself. It is just one more way we encourage the people of God to engage with each other in intentional spiritual community.
- **Back-Up, Assistance, and Encouragement.** Organizing by teams allows us to form a natural system of back-up: others who can share the load or pinch hit in an emergency.

**Q. What is the role of the Verger on the worship teams?**

A. The Verger has two main roles:

- **Team Leader.** In advance of his/her team's assigned Sundays, the Verger coordinates with the members of the team to determine who will be serving and in what role(s).
- **Master of Ceremonies.** On the day of the service, making sure that assigned servers are present (or finding substitutes), then making sure the service runs smoothly.

**Q. Why do we ask worship servers to notify the Verger when they cannot serve as assigned AND try to find a replacement for themselves?**

A. First, it does little good to call the office, since it is only open through Friday afternoon. Even if you were able to reach someone, it would only delay getting the information to the Verger, who is the person who really needs to know. Second, most of our Vergers have "day jobs," and don't have enough free time to find substitutes. Of course, in a true emergency, they (and the folk at the office) are happy to do what we can.

**Q. Why do we ask the various worship servers to come early to the service? Why do some have to come earlier than others?**

A. There are several reasons:

- **Practical.** The practical reason is that the various kinds of servers have different amounts of preparation to be done after they arrive. Altar Guild members have a lot more to do than acolytes. Acolytes have a lot more to do than chaliceists.
- **Spiritual.** The spiritual reason is that most of our worshippers need a few minutes of quiet, peaceful time to center themselves in prayer before the service.
- **Hospitality to Visitors.** We want to create an atmosphere of hospitality for our newcomers. People rushing around doing last-minute preparations do not a hospitable atmosphere create.

**LAY WORSHIP SERVERS ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE!**

**THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO!**