

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:

✧ Sacristans ✧

Sacristans are Eucharistic Ministers who take on the added responsibility of preparing the Church for the Mass. They make sure the church doors are open, the lights on, the Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers checked in, and all the elements of the Mass ready for use. They also make sure there are parishioners who will take up the collection and bring up the gifts during Mass. After Mass they set up for the next Mass and close up the Church, locking the door and turning out the lights.

Why do people become Sacristans? Our Sacristans have a deep love for the Mass, but also a great desire to serve our priests and parishioners. Most parishioners probably don't notice what the Sacristan does. They just know that somebody is attending to all the tiny details of making the Mass happen. Our priests certainly know what Sacristans do because they depend on them! A good Sacristan frees the priests to focus on liturgy, worship, and welcoming rather than on hunting for Eucharistic ministers or making sure the altar candles are lit.

Sacristans have one other "unwritten" duty and that is to keep an eye open for parishioners who need extra help during the Mass. Helping a family learn to take up the collection or light the Advent candle, helping the elder fit the wheelchair into the back row, bringing communion to the person who cannot walk up the aisle, making newcomers feel welcome as they enter the Church: it is all a Sacristan's privilege and duty to be the light of Christ to others and often in the most practical ways. -Diana Weber

This is a crucial part of the functioning of our liturgies, and we're so grateful to all those who have stepped into this role. Have you thanked a Sacristan today? If you're interested in learning more or training for this ministry, please contact Kevin Adler at kevinadler907@gmail.com.

