

Our Faithful Servers...Our Sacristans.

Whenever you come to Mass, do you ever wonder who unlocked the church door for you?

That would be the sacristan.

The Catholic Encyclopedia defines a sacristan as an officer who is charged with the care of the sacristy, the church and its contents. The sacristans at St. Thomas Aquinas faithfully open the church doors and make everything ready for the celebration of the Mass.

Charlotte Gross, a sacristan at STA, describes her ministry.

I have been a sacristan for seven years...first at the 10:30 a.m. STA Sunday Mass and for two years at the 7:15 a.m. weekday Mass.

My main duty is to serve God's people by preparing the altar and sanctuary for Mass. This includes setting up the holy vessels, gifts of bread and wine, and arranging the small table on the altar.

I place the sacramentary (priest's missal) as well as the lectionary with the day's readings. I make sure the prayers of the faithful and the weekly announcements are in the proper binders and set out correctly.

I ensure that the lectors and Eucharistic ministers are present as scheduled (I make a three-month schedule) and if any aren't present, I scramble to fill in the gaps.

I set out the presider's vestments and wait for him to give any information regarding that Mass, such as a special intention.

Along with the presider and other liturgical ministers, I go to the back of the church for prayer before we process into the church. The procession consists of the cross-bearer, the bearer of the book of the Gospels, the remaining ministers and the presider.

I make sure that there are two people to bring up the gifts of bread and wine and that the collection(s) are put into baskets and brought up to the altar.

After Mass, I purify the holy vessels and put them away. I then clear the altar and side table for the next Mass. I order all of the necessary supplies.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve God and his people by making Mass possible for the community. I'd like to add that I have tremendous help from the lectors and Eucharistic ministers before and after Mass.

Through answering God's call and grace to this ministry, I have been given many blessings in return.

How good is the good God!

Charlotte Gross



Other sacristans for the parish are:

STA, 12:15 p.m., weekdays---Tina Reyes.

STA, 7:30 a.m., Sundays---Bill & Beatrice Peterson.

STA, 8:45 a.m., Sundays---Marci Ariagno, Marlene Arnold,
Andrea Davenport, Denise Davenport,
Maureen Locke, Fran McVittie,
Judy Washburn, Mary Washburn,
Joan Wrenn.

STA, 12:00 p.m., Sundays---George Brown, Richard Hernandez.

SAG, 5:00 p.m., Saturdays-Jim Chinn, Beverly Webb.

SAG, 9:00 a.m., Sundays---Joan Copenhagen, Joan Meyn,
Mary Shembri.

OLR, 8:30 a.m., weekdays---John & Micky Martin.

OLR, 9:00 a.m., Sundays---Consuelo Gil.

OLR, 10:30 a.m., Sundays---John Martin.

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The patron saint of sacristans is Guy of Anderlecht, Belgium,
c.950-1012 A.D. He devoted most of his time to prayer and to
his work as a sacristan.