



Pax Christi Catholic Church

A New Ministry at Mass

I would like to introduce a new ministry to our weekend Masses. This ministry would be called **Sacristan**. I personally, as the celebrant, feel the need to have *ONE PERSON* to whom I can turn before each Mass to make sure *that everything is in order*.

My hope is that we would have three or four sacristans committed to each weekend Mass (5 p.m., 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.) so that they could take turns, either once a month, or a month at a time every fourth month.

This is primarily a ministry of making all the immediate preparations for each Mass. Having this ministry and support would be a great relief to your sometimes-confused pastor and help him begin Mass with a much more peaceful spirit. It would help us all be ready to start each Mass on time, which, in turn, will help us in our *encouragement for everyone to be on time for the beginning of Mass*.

This ministry would involve:

- ◆ Being at church 20-25 minutes before Mass
- ◆ Setting out the vessels, the cloths, the bread, wine and water before Mass
- ◆ Checking before Mass the number of hosts in the ciborium in the tabernacle to decide how many hosts should be carried up at the Offertory Procession.
- ◆ Checking that **ALL** other Mass ministers are present and signed in 10 minutes before Mass begins.
- ◆ Finding replacements for any minister who is NOT checked in 10 minutes before Mass. (Others can help the Sacristan identify proper replacements. We will make all ministries aware that we intend to institute this practice.)
- ◆ The sacristan will **not** be responsible for making any schedules.
- ◆ Helping the celebrant set up oils, candles, etc. for any extra services taking place at the Mass, such as baptisms or RCIA rites.
- ◆ Communicating with and working together with ministries to maintain the sacristy and the liturgical supplies.
- ◆ Advising and assisting visiting priests of our various procedures.
- ◆ Volunteer, as available, to be sacristan for funerals or weddings, etc.
- ◆ Eucharistic ministers would continue to do the clean up after Mass as they have been doing.

As you can see, some of these tasks are currently handled by the Eucharistic Minister Captain for each individual Mass. Other tasks are not officially covered by anyone at this time.

On the day the sacristan is serving, that person would not have much time for socializing before Mass. There would be a serious training for all volunteers before we actually started this ministry.

Please give serious consideration to accepting this ministry.

If you have questions, or wish to sign up for this ministry, please see me after Mass, or call the office at 859-273-9999.

Thank you for your attention to this longish note. - ***Fr. Pat***