

## Pandemic Liturgical Guidelines: Sacristans

While we are all eager to resume our lives, we must be aware that restrictions remain in effect in our communities in order to prevent the up-curve of the coronavirus, which would lead again to quarantine and closures. As we resume Mass, we will need to pay attention to specific details. We pray that as time progresses they can gradually lessen until they go away.

1. If you are caring for someone who is ill, immune compromised (i.e. someone with cancer, HIV, lupus, or any autoimmune disease), or you are immune compromised you should refrain at this time from serving in this or any other ministry. Your ministry at this time is caring for that person, or for yourself. While you may be disappointed, this sacrifice is necessary and our Lord is asking this of you at this time.
2. It is important that you take your temperature prior to leaving home when you are scheduled to serve as sacristan. If it is elevated, and/or you are feeling ill you should stay home. Do not come to church. While you may feel guilty about not being able to serve, imagine how it would feel to know that someone got ill because of you! It is greater service to stay home and let your parish know that you are ill instead of risking your and others health.
3. Work very closely with your pastor to learn about your parish's protocols regarding sanitizing and cleaning liturgical items. If you do not feel up to taking this responsibility, it is important to be honest as your role is very important in assisting with maintaining a safe environment.
4. Before coming into church, make sure to sanitize your hands and place on a mask. Then follow the usual protocols for ministering as a sacristan at your parish. Make sure to follow all the rules of social distancing (no hugs, no handshakes and staying at least 6 feet away from another person).
5. Prepare as normal the liturgical vessels, etc. Make sure to wash your hands frequently in between handling items or using hand sanitizer. It is suggested that once your tasks are completed, you leave the sacristy space in order to keep the number of persons in the space to a minimal.
6. At the completion of the Mass, return to the sacristy to assist with clean-up. Make sure to clean all liturgical vessels in soap and hot water and wipe them well. You will want to place all liturgical linens in a laundry bag. Even if they are clean, resist the temptation to use them again. If you are responsible for laundering the linens, do so in hot water and use bleach.
7. Wipe down all surfaces and liturgical books used with an anti-disinfect wipe or spray and make sure that all loose paper, etc. is disposed of.
8. Make sure to wash your hands with soap and water before leaving to clean off any residue from cleaning agents.

