

SACRISTAN

The duties of a sacristan vary from parish to parish, but their focus is the overall preparation for liturgical celebrations and the good order of the sacristy.

DO'S: (Practices may vary in each parish dependent on custom, tradition, etc.)

- Ensure vestments, linens are properly washed, cleaned and pressed.
- Altar vessels are cleaned properly and kept in a secure and safe place.
- Set-up the ritual books (i.e., lectionary, Roman Missal, etc.) needed for the liturgy and arrange the ribbons according to the instructions in the *ORDO*.
- Arrange everything required for the celebration:
 - Vestments, cruets, chalices, ciboria, linens, oils, processional cross and candles.
- If possible, ensure a respectful, prayerful silence in the sacristy.
- Ensure enough supplies are available for liturgy like hosts, wine, candles, clean purificators, corporals, incense, coals, (ashes – *Ash Wednesday*), etc.
- Altar linens should be rinsed with water first and that water either poured down the *sacrarium* or into the earth before laundering (See Roman Missal).
- Dispose of worn linens by burning or burial.
- Make sure the sanctuary lamp stays lit, altar cloths are changed, and holy water fonts are cleaned / filled regularly.
- Other duties may include coordinating with those people who help with the general décor of the church such as cleaners and flower arrangers.
- A sacristan should have a solid or at least basic understanding of the liturgy, the needs of the various liturgical seasons, as well as an understanding of the principal liturgical books such as the sacramentary and lectionary.

Extract taken from:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Nelson



Nelson Diocese Liturgy Committee