

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Mount Dora, FL

WASHING LINENS, TOWELS, & ALTAR CLOTHS

9/12/2025

Volunteers take turns washing the linens, alternating each week. The soiled linens are picked up after their assigned weekend Mass and returned either to the Church Office or Sacristy the following Monday-Tuesday. [The Sacristy is normally locked after daily Mass.]

This guideline was developed to give guidance to those just starting to assist. As with most things, determine what works best for you and go with it. Cleaned, pressed linens are our objective, not how to get there.

PLEASE, DO NOT USE BLEACH. It fades the embroidery and weakens the material.

Options for washing, depending on your washing machine:

Method 1:

- *Pre-treat lipstick and wine stains with Spray & Wash.
- *Place linens and towels in the same load.
- *Use Tide with a little Oxy Clean added.
- *Use warm or hot water, include a 10 minute soak, and a short wash cycle so as not to wear out the linens.

Method 2:

- *Pre-treat lipstick and wine stains with Spray & Wash. Dawn dishwashing liquid may be needed on some stains.
- *Soak treated linens in Oxy Clean solution 10-15 minutes.
- *Place linens and towels in the same load.
- *Use your preferred laundry detergent.
- *Use warm or hot water and a short wash cycle so as not to wear out the linens.

Both Methods 1 & 2:

*Iron all corporals and linens (Some are not perfectly square.). The hand and dish towels and tray covers only require folding. Notify the sacristan coordinator when one has a hole so it may be replaced.

*Use Magic Sizing (starch) only on the linen corporals and purificators.

ALTAR CLOTHS

(One volunteer typically washes and irons the Altar Cloths.)

There are several Altar Cloths for everyday use, one for Christmas, and one for Easter. All are hanging in the Computer Room closet.

Of those for everyday use, some are the same size as the Altar top and others drape over the side. Four have seasonal IHS embroidered in the sides. If an Easter, Christmas, or seasonal Altar Cloth needs replacement, replace it with a 'same size' and we will return the soiled one as soon as it is cleaned.

If a sacristan has the need to replace an Altar Cloth, they have been asked to let the sacristan coordinator know immediately so it can be washed promptly (before the wine stain sets too long). Please do not hang it back up in the closet. If the spill is post-Consecration, cleanse the spot appropriately first, as you would for a corporal.

When washing an Altar Cloth, before placing it in a dryer, please consider if it may shrink.