

## **Church of Saint David the King**

### **LINEN MINISTRY**

A linen minister plays a vital role in the care and preparation of the sacred linens used during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. These linens, which include the corporal, purificator, lavabo towel, and altar cloths, hold a unique significance as they come into contact with the Body and Blood of Christ. Their care must reflect the reverence due to the Blessed Sacrament.

#### **Gathering the Linens**

After Sunday Masses, the used linens are carefully collected. Any purificators or corporals that have absorbed the Precious Blood or small particles of the Eucharist are first rinsed in a sacrarium in the sacristy (a special sink that drains directly into the ground). This ensures that any remnants of the Blessed Sacrament are properly returned to the earth. The linens are then wrung out and set aside for further washing.

#### **Cleaning the Linens**

The linens are washed separately from other items to maintain their sacred purpose. A gentle, fragrance-free detergent is recommended, with the optional use of oxygen-based cleaners like OxiClean for stain removal. Harsh chemicals, such as bleach, should be avoided, as they can weaken the fabric and cause discoloration. The minister handles the linens with care, ensuring that their sacred purpose is honored even in the washing process.

#### **Drying and Ironing**

Once clean, the linens are either air-dried or dried on a gentle setting. Fabric softener should be avoided. The ironing process is especially important, as it restores the linens to a crisp, reverent appearance for use at the altar. When ironing, no starch should be used, as this can interfere with the linens' absorbency and texture. Each piece is pressed meticulously, with special attention given to corporals to ensure that their folds align properly for easy placement on the altar.

Note: It is advisable to have a clean set of linens on hand as a reference for properly ironing the linens being cleaned.

#### **Reverence in Handling**

Throughout the entire process, the linen minister is mindful of the sacred nature of these items. Handling the linens is not merely a task but an act of devotion and service to the Church. Prayers may be offered while tending to the linens, asking for the grace to serve Christ and His Church faithfully. Every step reflects a deep respect for the Eucharist and the sacred liturgy.

By maintaining proper care of the Mass linens, the linen minister contributes to the dignity of the celebration of the Eucharist, ensuring that all aspects of the liturgy reflect the holiness of the divine mysteries being celebrated.

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### **Prayer While Washing Sacred Linens**

Heavenly Father,  
I offer this humble work to You  
in honor of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who gave Himself for us upon the altar of the Cross.

As I cleanse these linens,  
which have borne the mysteries of His Body and Blood,  
purify my heart and soul,  
that I may serve You with love, reverence, and devotion.

May this labor, though small,  
bring glory to Your holy name  
and prepare these linens to once again  
serve in the sacred celebration of the Eucharist.

Bless all who approach Your altar,  
and draw us ever closer to Your divine presence.

Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.