

## Altar Guild

The online Altar Guild Manual describes the role of the Altar Guild as follows, “The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments, and serving the clergy and the parish.” Our volunteer Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards.

We had change at the end of year, introducing small individual chalices. These are washed following each service. This process encourages more participation in drinking of the wine during Holy Eucharist, especially during flu and COVID season.

We are blessed to have such a good group of sacristans. They have taken on change with a willing heart and a smile on their face. They are always willing to do what is asked.

We welcome our new members, Betty Cobb and Heather Emhart. The other faithful members include John Templeton+, Lee Burson, Traci Cagle, Suzy Downing, Ann Inman, Peggy Melton, Karen Carroll, Christy Collins, Betsy Elsas, Mary Flanigen, Shelley Urban and Paulette Williams.

We will say good-bye this year to our faithful servant, Mary Lu Gunn. Mary Lu will be moving to Augusta to be closer to family.

Mary Lu Gunn and Peggy Melton clean and iron the linens on a regular basis. Beginning in 2024, Karen Carroll, Betty Cobb and Suzy Downing will take over this responsibility.

We will always welcome new members. There are three opportunities to serve:

- The Saturday people meet at 10:00am to set up the altar in preparation for the 8:00 service.
- The Sunday 8:00 group, cleans up following the service and sets the altar for the 10:30 service.
- The Sunday 10:30 group, cleans up following the service.

A special thank you goes to John Johnson for refurbishing our Advent stand and building a safe container for the Christ Candle.

I am truly honored to be a part of this important ministry.

Bonnie Klinec, Sacristan

