

Understanding the Mass Church Cleaners

Each week, we are explaining the different parts of the Mass - what is in the church, what we use in the Mass, and why (and how) we celebrate Mass the way we do.

*Today our topic is the **church cleaners**.*

Last week, we learned about the sacristan, who has responsibility for the careful arranging of the liturgical books, the vestments, and other things needed for the celebration of Mass.

Another important ministry that many of us don't see is that of the **Church Cleaners**, who volunteer to sweep, Hoover, tidy, dust and polish our church as an act of service for God, and for our parish community.

Our cleaning volunteers work on a rota (a rotation of duties) where they take turns working to clean the church so that it is beautiful and cared for, and creates a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who comes to worship and pray - not only on Sunday, but every day of the week.

The patron saint of church cleaners - and also of everyone who does housework and cleaning - is Saint Zita (ca. 1212 - 1272), who lived in the Italian city of Lucca, and worked as a domestic servant from the age of only twelve.

Saint Zita worked for the same family for an incredible forty-eight years, and was known for her kindness and generosity to the poor.

This week, we invite you to pray together as a family:

God our Father,

You inspired Saint Zita to spend her life caring for others, doing ordinary things extraordinarily well. This week, we pray for our family, our parish and especially for those who serve You by volunteering to clean our church. Help us all to imitate the way Saint Zita offered her hard work to You in the little things we do each and every day. Inspire us to serve others with the same love and care that she did.

We ask this in Your name. Amen.

