HANDWASHING (2015)

Warm soapy water in electric roaster in sacristy, with pitcher for dipping.

Basin of water at each station, with 3-4 inches of warm soapy water.

After about every third person, take basin to sacristy, empty into sink, refill from roaster, take back out.

Try to alternate filling basins, to keep things flowing smoothly.

Add warm tap water and soap to roaster as needed.

When done: Take basins to sacristy to empty.

Take both hampers and one basket to the sacristy hallway.

⇒ Leave all unused towels in the other basket, near the altar rail at one side.

Take the tables to the vesting room.

Priest and assistant(s) move to the front row of chancel seating.

ALTAR STRIPPING (2015)

Adapted in 2014 from gooseberrylane.blogspot.com/2007/04/why-strip-altar

[Narrator:] Stripping the altar is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. After the Last Supper, less that 24 hours remained in our Lord’s earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize His suffering and death.

[After each reading, all four people work simultaneously – not one at a time.]

Person A: Pulpit and lectern hangings to the sacristy; chair cushions from the priest’s & assistants’ chairs to the sacristy; kneelers from the right side of the altar rail to the sacristy; stay there to receive things.

Person B: Processional cross to the vesting room; chair cushions and kneelers from the sanctuary to the vesting room.

Person C: St. David’s banner to the vesting room; kneelers from the left side of the altar rail to the vesting room. Get snuffer to be ready for the next step.

Person D: U.S. flag and stand to the sacristy, Episcopal flag and stand to the vesting room.
Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.” The events at Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

**Person A:** Turn off light over Christus Rex (switch down low inside the altar rail); return to sacristy. Get out a small tray to hand to Person C before the next step (for the oil bottles from the ambry).

**Person B:** Torches and stands into vesting room; stay there.

**Person C:** Extinguish 4 candles, take lit sanctuary candle to Narrator. Get a small tray from Person A at the sacristy, to be ready to load & carry oil bottles at the next step.

**Person D:** After candles are out, take 4 candlesticks from altar and reredos to sacristy.

Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God’s greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

**Person B:** Offering basket from credence table shelf, and offering plates, to vesting room.

**Person C:** Oil bottles from ambry to vesting room. (When done, ambry should only contain the ciborium, the pyx, and one cruets on saucer.)

Service books guide our joyful worship life. Hymnals help us sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joy is not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stands, service books, hymnals, and bells.

**Person A:** Bell and striker to the sacristy; stay there.

**Person B:** Music stands into vesting room; stay there.

**Person C:** Brass missal stand and book to vesting room, any books from the sanctuary to vesting room.

**Person D:** Lectern binder, any books in chancel, and books, bookstands, etc. on credence table shelf, all to vesting room.

**Narrator:** Dim and turn off chancel arch lights.

Jesus’ offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the vessels of this Sacrament.
Person D: Silver cruets and bread plate to sacristy.

Person B: Credence table cover (after Person D removes cruets and chalice), to sacristy.

Person C: Covers (3) from credence shelves to sacristy.

Our altar and table are where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings are made of fine linen; material appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King’s body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar and table are stripped of their coverings.

Person A & Person B: Large altar: Fold/roll dust cover, fair linen, and cerecloth. Remain near sacristy.

Person C: Table: help fold/roll & remove corporal, fair linen, and cerecloth. Help fold in the table leaf and re-center the table. Then go to light switches near the chapel.

Person D: Table: help fold/roll & remove corporal, fair linen, and cerecloth. Help fold in the table leaf and re-center the table. Then go to light switches in the narthex.

Jesus’ body was washed clean in preparation for burial. In remembrance, we are invited to come up, take a towel from the basket, and symbolically clean the altar and things around it.

Person A: When people are done, remove the basket of towels to the sacristy hallway.

Person B: When people are done, dim and turn off the altar arch lights.

The reserved consecrated bread and wine represent Christ’s body. They are carried to the rear of the sanctuary and veiled to represent his lying in the tomb. Lights are dimmed along the way to symbolize the light of Christ leaving the world. (Narrator: turn off lectern light. Take lit sanctuary candle to Kristi+.)

Person A: Get ciborium and pyx, leave ambry open. Follow Kristi+ to chapel; place ciborium and pyx on the table.

Person B: Take cruet & saucer from ambry, go with Person A, follow Kristi+ to chapel; place cruet/saucer on table. Place veil over ciborium and cruet/saucer.

Kristi+: Lead procession to chapel, carrying the lit sanctuary candle. Place the candle on the table in the chapel.

Person C: Dim front lights (2 outer switches), and then center lights (2 inner switches) as procession passes them.

Person D: Dim the back lights (switch with dimmer) when procession reaches the chapel.