

✠ Faith Seeking Understanding

Items used at Mass & Liturgies

Objects + Vestments + Books + Vessels

Objects within the Church



Altar

The altar is the table used for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is where the Priest consecrates the

bread and wine into the substance of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

It is referred to as the “Table of the Lord” and at the beginning of the Mass the *Book of the Gospels* is placed on the Altar.



Ambo

Known as the “Table of the Word” for the proclamation of Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of the Word.

From the ambo the Readings, Responsorial Psalm, and Gospel are proclaimed.

Also used for the Homily and the intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful. The dignity of the ambo requires that only a minister of the word should go up to it.



Presider’s Chair.

The Chair for Priest Celebrant, which represents the role of the priest as the leader of the worship of the community, and his pastoral care and responsibility for

the people. The Deacon would sit to the right of the Celebrant.



Cross

There should be a Cross, with the figure of Christ crucified upon it, which calls to mind for the faithful the saving Passion of the Lord, be either on the altar or near it, where it is clearly visible to the congregation.



Tabernacle

The shrine where the Eucharist is kept as a place of exclusive reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.

As a sign of reverence and adoration one genuflects whenever passing in front of the Tabernacle.



Sanctuary Lamp

There is always a single light burning by the Tabernacle to show the Real Presence of Jesus (body, soul, blood, & divinity) in the Eucharist.

This light also represents our watchfulness before Christ, the Light of the World.



Paschal Candle

Is blessed at the Easter Vigil. It displays the Greek letters alpha and omega (the beginning and the end), the year, and five grains of incense to represent the wounds of Jesus Christ (from the nails in each hand and foot and the spear in the side).

The Paschal Candle is lit throughout the Easter Season, at baptisms and at Funerals.



Baptismal Font

A large ornate pool or majestic bowl used for Baptisms. Baptism is the way we enter into the Church by being made children of God.

Entering into a spiritual relationship with our Heavenly Father, receiving the Holy Spirit, becoming a disciple of Christ and a member of God’s family, the Mystical Body of Christ

- the Church and being called to eternal life.



Lectern

Is a stand or podium and when there is an ambo, the Lectern is not used to proclaim Sacred Scripture.

The Announcements, Prayer of the Faithful, and special letters can be read from the Lectern.



Ambry

The Ambry holds the Holy Oils and the Oil of Chrism which are used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick.

The Sacred Oils may be visible to remind the community that God chooses to use the things of this earth to impart His grace.

Sacred Vestments



Alb

Symbolizes: Purity.

A long white robe worn at liturgical celebrations by the Celebrant, Deacon, and Altar Servers.

It is a reminder of the baptismal garment worn when the new Christian "Put on Christ."



Cincture

Symbolizes: Chastity

A long cord used for fastening albs at the waist. It holds the loose-fitting type of alb in place and is used to adjust it to proper length.

It is usually white, although the liturgical color of the day may be used.



Priest Stole

Symbolizes: the clerical office, immortality, and the Yoke of Christ

The stole, matching the liturgical color, is a long, scarf-like vestment worn over the alb and under the

Chasuble. It is the mark of the Office of the Priest. A priest wears it around the neck, hanging down in front.

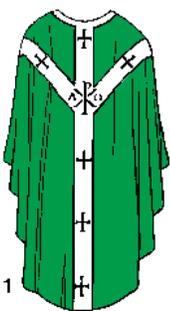


Deacon Stole

Symbolizes: the clerical office, immortality, and the Yoke of Christ

The stole, matching the liturgical color, is a long, scarf-like vestment worn over the alb and under the Dalmatic.

It is the mark of the Office of the Deacon. A Deacon wears it over his left shoulder, fastening it at his right side.



Chasuble

Symbolizes: Charity and the Yoke of Christ.

The sleeveless outer garment, slipped over the head, hanging down from the shoulders covering the alb and stole of the priest.

It is the proper Mass vestment for the main celebrant and its color varies according to the feast.



Dalmatic

Symbolizes: Charity, Justice, and the sufferings of Christ

A loose-fitting robe with open sides and wide sleeves worn by a deacon on more solemn feasts. Its color varies according to the feast.



Cope

The cope is a large cape worn by celebrant in processions and other sacred actions, in keeping with the rubrics proper to each rite.

For example, Baptisms, and during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

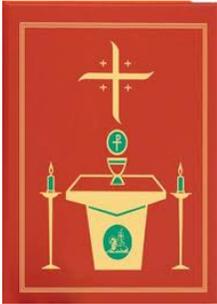


Humeral Veil

A long cloth, usually white, which goes over the celebrant's shoulders and covers his arms. This is attached by a clasp in the front.

The veil is used to hold the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance during Benediction.

Liturgical Books



Roman Missal

Contains all the prayers and rituals said by the Celebrant and Deacon during Mass.

Included are The Introductory Rites, The Liturgy of the Word, without Scriptures, The Liturgy of the Eucharist, and The Concluding Rites.



Book of the Gospels

The Book of the Gospels is a visible sign of Jesus Christ the Word of God.

It is to be carried in procession at the entrance of the Mass by the Deacon and then enthroned at the center of the altar.

A Lector may process with the book when a Deacon is not present.

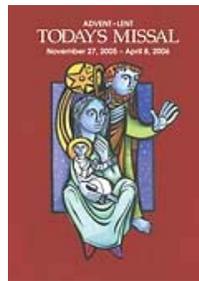


Lectionary

Contains the Scripture Readings for Mass, Responsorial Psalm, and Gospel.

It should not be carried in procession by the Lector, but should be placed on the ambo

before Mass.



Hymnal/Missalette

Provides the congregation the parts of the mass for a specific season in the liturgical year including instructions on when to stand, sit, or kneel.

Sacred Vessels/Objects



Chalice

The large cup used by the celebrant at Mass when he consecrates the wine into the Blood of Christ.



Paten

A round metal plate used by the celebrant at Mass when he consecrates the host (bread) into the Body of Christ.



Ciborium

A vessel used to hold the Hosts which will be used for communion. They are also used to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the

Tabernacle.



Flagon

The bottle or pitcher like vessel used to hold the wine which will be consecrated at Mass for the communion of the people. It is brought forth with the gifts.

Sacred Vessels/Objects - continued



Communion Cups

Used at communion for the people to receive the precious Blood of Jesus. They are kept on the Credence Table and brought to the Altar at the Preparation of the Gifts.



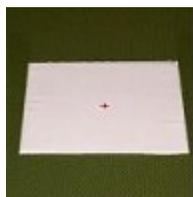
Corporal

A white linen cloth on which are placed the vessels containing the bread and wine during Mass which will become the Body and Blood of Christ.



Purificator

A small rectangular white cloth used to clean the chalice and paten after Communion. It is different in appearance from the corporal, because it is not square.



Pall

The stiff, square, white cover that is placed over the paten when it is on the chalice.



Cruets and Tray

Cruets contain the wine and the water used during the Mass. The Tray is used when water is poured over the Priests hands.



Lavabo Bowl & Towel

A dish called a 'Lavabo bowl' and the small linen cloth called a 'Finger Towel', used by the priest to symbolically wash his hands before beginning the Consecration.



Monstrance

A sacred vessel designed to expose the consecrated Host to the congregation either for adoration in church or carrying in procession, particularly on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.



Thurible & Boat

The Thurible (Censor) is used at solemn occasions to incense the altar, Gospel, bread and wine after the offertory, the priest, and congregation and Eucharist.

The Boat holds the incense until it is placed in the Thurible by the celebrant. Both are used during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The fragrant smoke of incense symbolizes our prayers rising to Heaven and purifying what it touches.



Aspergillum

An aspergillum is a liturgical implement used to sprinkle Holy Water.



Aspersorium

Bucket that holds Holy Water.



Processional Cross & Candles

Crucifix on pole which is carried by the Cross Bearer and the Candles carried by the Candle Bearers in the opening procession, placed in the stand in the Sanctuary during Mass and carried out by the servers in the recessional at end of Mass.



Candle Lighter and Snuffer

Server's long or short handled object with extendable wax taper for lighting candles on one side and inverted cup for extinguishing candles on the opposite side.



Offertory Table

Small table or surface area in back of Church (Vestibule). Wine and hosts are placed here before Mass to be carried to the Sanctuary

during the Presentation of the Gifts.



Credence Table

Table where servers place the vessels to be used in the Mass, which include, the Chalice, Patten, Communion Cups, Cruets, and Lavabo Dish.



Ablutions Bowl

A bowl on the Credence Table used by the Ministers of Holy Communion to wash their fingers after distributing

Holy Communion during the Mass.



Holy Water Font

A vessel containing Holy Water.

Upon entering the Church Catholics will dip their fingers in this blessed water and mark themselves with the Sign of the Cross, which is both a reminder of our faith in the Triune

God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the promises of our Baptism into the Body of Christ – The Church..

Special Places In Church

Narthex: (Sometimes called the vestibule). The area located just inside the main entrance of the church and the entrance to the body of the Church. It also provides room for book or pamphlet racks, bulletin boards, and the Holy Water Fonts.

Sacristy: Room where the sacred vessels and vestments are kept and where Priest/Deacon and Servers Vest and Prepare for Mass.

Nave – A central part of the church, where the faithful gather to worship together and the pews are located.

Sanctuary – A Sacred, consecrated area around the Altar of a church where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated; and the Altar, Ambo, Tabernacle, Credence Table, Priest, Deacon, and Server chairs are located.