

## Things to Know About

Because the Mass is such an ancient prayer, there are many elements that have become a part of the celebration. Servers must be familiar with these terms. You should know what these things are, how they are used, and where they are kept. Spaces are provided after some of these descriptions below. These spaces will allow you to write in where the object is stored and any other information that your leader feels is necessary.

**SERVICE BOOKS** o These are the special books used during the liturgy.

./ *Sacramentary (Roman Missal)* - **This** is a large book that contains all the words the priest uses during Mass, except the readings. Write here where the book is stored.

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./ *Book of the Chair* - **This** book is kept by the chair where the priest sits or stands. It contains those prayers from the Sacramentary that the priest needs when he is at this place.

./ *Lectionary* - **This** book contains all the Scripture readings for Mass. It is usually carried in the entrance procession by the lector and placed on the stand from which the readings are done (lectern or pulpit).

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./ *Book of the Gospels* - **This** book contains the Gospel readings (taken from the Lectionary). It is usually carried in the entrance procession by the deacon when there is one present. It is usually placed on the altar, then carried to the pulpit or ambo at the Gospel.

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./ *The Roman Ritual* - **This** book is used for the celebration of sacraments. Sometimes each rite has its own special book: for example,

the Rite of Marriage or the funeral rites. Ask your leader about this.

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*./ Hymnal - This* book contains the hymns and psalms for Mass. You should keep this book near you so that you can sing whenever possible.

*(Note: Official books should be used during Mass. Unless absolutely necessary, substitutes, such as a monthly missalette, should not be used near the altar.)*

**THE SANCTUARY** o The sanctuary is that space at the front of the church within which most of the action of the Mass takes place. The word means "holy place." In most churches this space is somewhat elevated. There are many things in the sanctuary with which you should be familiar. At the end of this section is a blank page for you to draw the sanctuary of your church and label the things in the sanctuary (described below) showing where they are placed in your church.

*./ Main Altar - This* is the large, high table usually located in the middle of the sanctuary. Most of the action of the liturgy of the Eucharist takes place near the main altar.

*./ Altar Cloth - This* is the tablecloth for the main altar. It is usually white but also comes in liturgical colors (see Chapter 8).

*./ Ambo (Pulpit) - This* is the place where the readings are done, Gospel proclaimed, and homily given. In many churches there is also a lectern (simple reading stand) to the side from which announcements are made and used by a cantor and commentator.

*./ Credence Table - A* small table, usually on the Gospel-side wall, on which is kept the Sacramentary and chalice (until transferred to the altar after the Prayer of the Faithful). The wine, water, and finger dish and towel are kept here. Sometimes the sacred vessels are purified here after Communion.

*./ Candles -There* can be variations here. Ordinarily, there are candles on each side of the pulpit, lighted before Mass by servers, or carried in with the procession. Unless there is a separate Blessed Sacrament room, ordinary candles are lighted before Mass on each side of the tabernacle. Lastly, after the Prayer of the Faithful, candles on either side of the altar are lighted by a server, while other servers prepare the Altar of Sacrifice with Sacramentary, corporal, and Mass vessels.

*,I Paschal Candle -The* paschal candle, used from the Easter Vigil through Pentecost Sunday, is placed near the altar or ambo and is lighted for all Masses to commemorate the Risen Christ among us.

*,I Cruets -The* pitcher-like vessels containing the water and wine are kept on the credence table.

*,I Processional Cross -This* is the cross mounted on a long pole that is carried at the head of the procession and in bringing up the gifts. It is kept in a stand at the side of the sanctuary.

*,I Tabernacle -This* is the safe-like container in which the Eucharist is kept. It is located in various places in different churches. Your leader will teach you the proper reverences to it. Hosts are taken from here at Communion time.

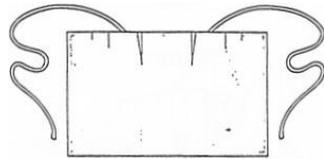
*,I Bells -In* parishes that use bells (some do not), they are rung at the consecration. Your leader will give you instructions on what is done in your parish. The bells are usually kept near the servers' places. If used, learn how to ring them properly.

## **Our Sanctuary**

(On this page, with the help of your leader, draw a sketch of your sanctuary. Show where all the items mentioned above are located and label them.)

**VESTMENTS** o In the earliest days of the Church, Mass was usually celebrated in people's homes. There were relatively few Church members then. The priest and other ministers wore what everybody else wore. As years passed, the Church community got much bigger, so Mass had to be celebrated in large buildings. Sometimes there were thousands of people there. People had to be able to tell easily who the various ministers were. As a result, special garments were adopted for the various ministers at Mass. The vestments we use today are thus very ancient in origin. They help us tell easily who is doing what at Mass.

*/ Amice* - **This** is a rectangular piece of cloth with two long ribbons attached to the top corners. The priest puts it over his shoulders, tucking it in around the neck to hide his cassock and collar. It is worn whenever the alb does not completely cover the ordinary clothing at the neck (GI\* 297). It is tied around the waist. The priest puts this on himself. Some religious orders use it as a cowl or hood.



AMICE

*/ Alb* - **This** long, white, dress-like vestment can be used by all liturgical ministers. It is helpful for the server to stand behind the minister, when he vests, to see that the alb hangs properly in the back.

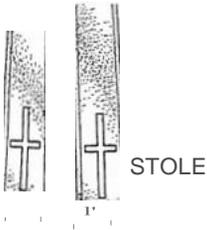


ALB

*/ Cincture* - **This** is a long cord used for fastening some albs at the waist. It holds the loose-fitting type of alb in place and is used to adjust it to the proper length. The cincture is usually white, although the liturgical color of the day may be used.



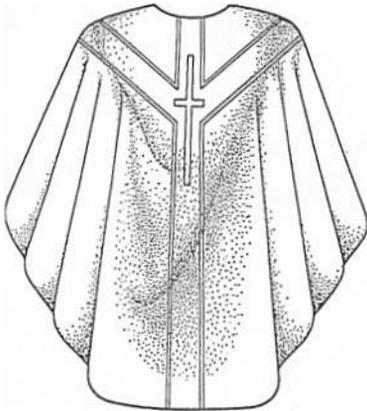
CINCTURE



STOLE

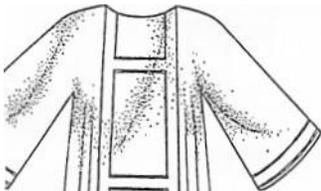
./ *Stole* — A stole is a long cloth "scarf," often ornately decorated, of the same color and style as the chasuble.

According to the manner in which it is worn, it is a mark of the office of priest or deacon. A priest wears it around the neck, letting it hang down in front. A deacon wears it over his right shoulder and fastened at his left side like a sash. (There is a smaller stole, white on one side and purple on the other, that many priests use for the anointing of the sick and the sacrament of reconciliation.)



./ *Chasuble* — The chasuble is the sleeveless outer vestment, slipped over the head, hanging down from the shoulders and covering the stole and alb. It is the proper Mass vestment of the priest and its color varies according to the feast. The server, standing behind, should see that it hangs properly during vesting.

Other vestments used in liturgical ceremonies are:



DALMATIC ./ *Dalmatic* — The dalmatic is a loose-fitting robe with open sides and wide sleeves worn by the deacon. It takes its color from the liturgical feast.



COPE

./ *Cope* — A cape-like vestment that is put on over the shoulders and hangs to the ankles, it is open in the front and clasped at the neck. The priest frequently wears it in Processions, at Benediction, and in



other services. Copes can be found in any of the liturgical colors.

*,I Benediction Veil-Also* known as a humeral veil, this is a long, narrow, shawl-like vestment used at Benediction and in processions where the Blessed Sacrament is carried.

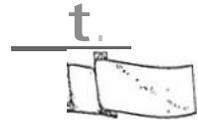
*.I Server's Alb -This* is a vestment used by servers in place of the cassock. It is similar to the priest's alb but sometimes has a cowl (hood). It is usually fastened around the waist with a cincture, often in the liturgical color.

*,I Cassock - A* long outer garment worn by clerics and servers. It is usually black, but for servers red or white cassocks may be worn for special feasts.

*.I Surplice* —This is a wide-sleeved garment, slipped over the head, covering the shoulders, and coming down below the hips. It is worn over the cassock for services in which the alb is not necessary.

**ALTAR VESSELS** o Altar vessels are frequently called "sacred" because they have a distinctive role in our worship.

*,I Chalice -The* large cup used at Mass to hold the wine that becomes the blood of Christ.



BENEDICTION  
VEIL



SERVER'S  
ALB



CASSOCK



SURPLICE



CHALICE



PATEN

,/ *Paten - This* is a saucer-like dish that usually matches the chalice with which it is used. It holds the bread that becomes the body of Christ.

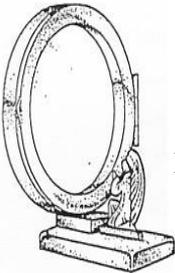
CIBORIUM

,/ *Ciborium - This* is a cup-like vessel (usually large) with a lid. It contains the hosts that will be used for Communion. It is also used to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.



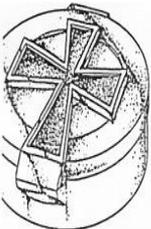
MONSTRANCE

,/ *Monstrance - This* is a large, ornate vessel used to hold the Blessed Sacrament for Benediction and eucharistic processions.



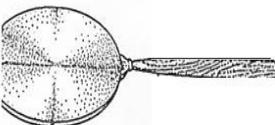
LUNETTE

,/ *Lunette -*  thin, circular receptacle, having a glass face that holds the Consecrated Host used at Benediction. It slides into the monstrance on a track.



PYX

,/ *Pyx -* 1. A metal case in which the Eucharist is kept in the tabernacle.  
2. A pocket watch-shaped case in which Communion used for sick calls is carried.

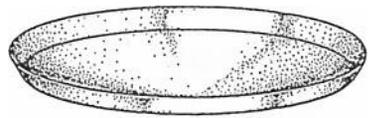


COMMUNION PATEN

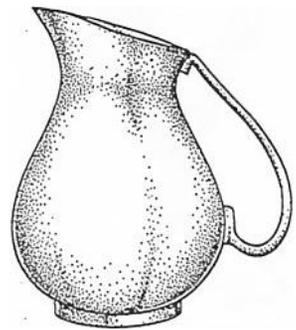
,/ *Communion Paten - This* is a plate with a handle that a server uses to catch Communion crumbs. The server stands at the right side of the Communion minister and holds the paten under the chin of the one receiving when the person receiving Communion does not receive it in the hand.

*/Large Paten or Bread Plate* —

Because of the sign value, it is becoming more common to use a large paten, or bread plate, in place of the ciborium. On this are placed the breads that will be consecrated for Communion. This paten is ordinarily brought up in procession at the presentation of the gifts. It may be the duty of a server to see that this paten with its breads is brought to the rear of the church before Mass. If this task falls to you, be careful not to spill any breads while going down the aisle.



LARGE PATEN or BREAD  
PLATE



FLAGON or DECANTER

*/Flagon or Decanter* — **This** is the bottle or carafe-like vessel used to hold the wine that will be consecrated at Mass for the Communion of the people. It is filled before Mass and brought to the rear of the church for the procession that will bring the gifts forward.

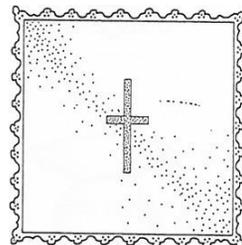


COMMUNION CUP

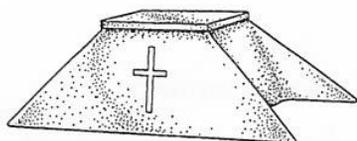
*/ Communion. Cups* — These are the chalice-like vessels, often made of pottery, used at Communion when the people receive from the cup. They are usually kept on the credence table and brought to the altar at Communion time to be filled from the flagon.

MISCELLANEOUS s Other articles used at Mass include the following:

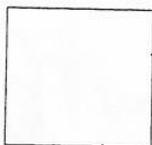
*/ Pall* - **This** is the stiff square white cover that is placed over the



PALL



CHALICE VEIL



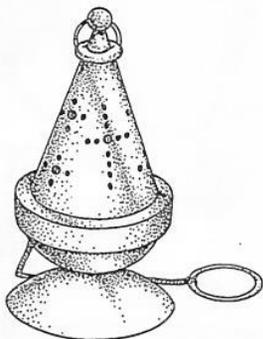
CORPORAL



PURIFICATOR



FINGER TOWEL



THURIBLE

paten when it is on the chalice and over the chalice during Mass to protect its contents.

✓ *Chalice Veil* — This is the large square cloth, matching the vestments of the day, that covers the chalice before the presentation of the gifts.

✓ *Corporal* — A white linen napkin, usually starched, on which are placed the vessels containing the bread and wine during Mass. It is folded into a small square about the size of the pall. When unfolded, it is placed on top of the altar cloth. It is also used at the tabernacle at Benediction or when the Blessed Sacrament is taken out.

✓ *Purificator* — This is a triple-folded rectangular white cloth used to cleanse the chalice and to dry the celebrant's fingers after the last ablution (washing). In setting up the chalice, the purificator is placed over the mouth, beneath the paten.

✓ *Finger Towel* — A folded rectangular cloth resembling a purificator but much narrower, it is used by the priest to dry his fingers after they have been washed during the preparation of the gifts. It is kept with the cruets and sometimes brought forward with them.

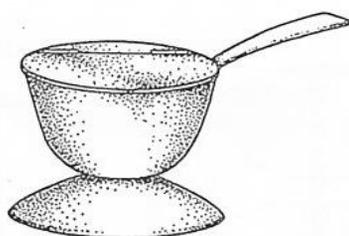
✓ *Thurible* — The metal container extended from a chain (or chains) in

which charcoal and incense are burned for liturgical ceremonies. It has a lid that can be raised. It is sometimes called a censer.

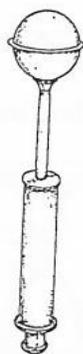
✓ *Boat* — This is a small metal container that holds the incense to be put into the thurible. It has a cover and comes with a small spoon. Frequently shaped like a boat, it is a symbol of the Church, the bark of Peter.

✓ *Aspergillum* — Also called the holy water sprinkler, it is a perforated metal ball or tube on a handle that holds the holy water used by the priest to sprinkle the faithful or articles to be blessed. It is often kept in a small metal bucket (with a handle) that holds holy water.

✓ *Extinguisher* — While this tool takes its name from putting out candles, it is also used to light them. It is a pole-like instrument with a tube at one side on the top with a retractable wick for lighting candles. The server using it should have enough wick exposed so that the flame will not go out until all candles are lit. Then the tab should be used to retract the wick and put the flame out. The other side of the top is a cup for extinguishing the candles. Often the server cannot see over the top of the candle, so practice is needed.



BOAT



ASPERGILLUM



EXTINGUISHER