

5 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. There are spaces after many of these descriptions below. These spaces will allow you to write in where the object is stored and any other information which your leader feels is necessary.

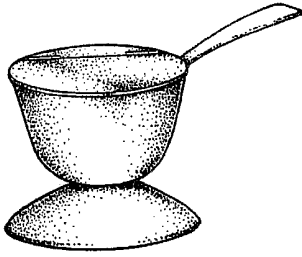
1. **SERVICE BOOKS** > These are the special books used during the liturgy.

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

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

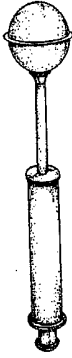
c. *Lectionary* — This book contains all the Scripture readings for Mass. It is usually carried in the entrance procession by the lector and placed on the stand from which the readings are done (lectern or pulpit). _____

d. *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 lectern or pulpit also. _____



BOAT

g. *Boat* — This is a small metal container, which 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

h. *Aspergillum* — Also called the holy water sprinkler, it is a perforated metal ball or tube on a handle which 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.

e. *The Roman Ritual* — This book is used for the celebration of sacraments and funerals. Sometimes each rite has its own special book: for example, the Rite of Marriage. Ask your leader about this. _____

f. *Ordo* — This book tells what feast day it is, what the readings are, and what is the proper color of the day. Ordinarily, you will not need to be concerned about this book. _____

g. *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.)

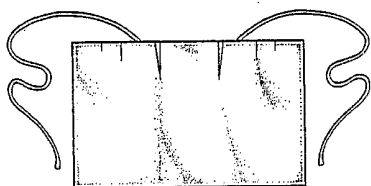
2. THE SANCTUARY > The sanctuary is that space at the front of the church within which most of the action of the Mass takes place. The word means "holy place." In most churches this space is somewhat elevated. There are many things in the sanctuary with which you should be familiar. At the end of this 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.

a. *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.

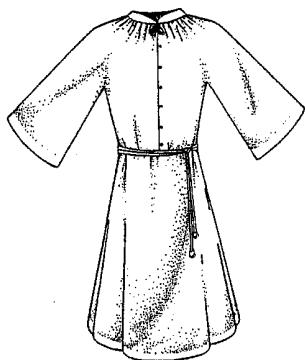
b. *Altar Cloth* — This is the tablecloth for the main altar. It is usually white but they also come in liturgical colors (see Chapter 8).

- c. *Ambo (Pulpit)* — This is the place from which the readings are done, the Gospel is proclaimed, and the homily is given. In some places, the first and second readings are given from a different location. This is usually a lectern. A lectern is a simple reading stand. If your parish has a cantor, he or she might also use this lectern.
- d. *Credence Table* — This is a rather small table on which is kept the things (books, bread, wine, water, towel, and finger dish) which are used during the Mass.
- e. *Candles* — At least two large candles are kept burning throughout the Mass as a sign of Christ, the Light of the World. They are either kept permanently on the main altar or they may be processed in at the beginning of Mass.
- f. *Cruets* — These are the two small pitchers which contain the water and wine. In some places larger vessels are used for this purpose.
- g. *Paschal Candle* — This is a very large candle, placed in the sanctuary during Easter time. It is a special reminder of the risen Christ among us.
- h. *Processional Cross* — This is the cross mounted on top of a tall pole. It is carried at the head of processions by a server and placed in a special stand in the sanctuary.
- i. *Tabernacle* — This comes from a Latin word which means tent. It is a small box, usually specially decorated, in which the Eucharist is kept when Mass is not being said. It is a place which should be given particular reverence. It is located in various places in different churches. Your leader will make sure you know where the tabernacle is.
- j. *Bell(s)* — The bell is usually located near the altar. In places which use bells (many do not), they are rung usually during the consecration of the Mass. Your leader will give you instructions about what is done in your parish.

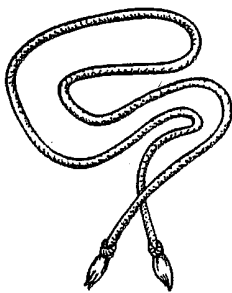
3. **VESTMENTS** > In the earliest days of the Church, Mass was usually celebrated in people's homes. There were relatively few Church members then. The priest and other ministers wore what everybody else wore. As years passed, the Church community got much bigger, so Mass had to be celebrated in large 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, then, very ancient in origin. They help us tell easily who is doing what at Mass.



AMICE



ALB



CINCTURE

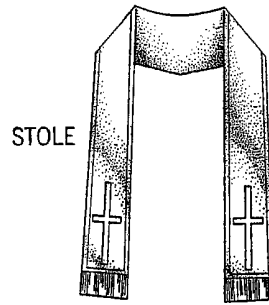
a. *Amice* — This is a rectangular piece of cloth with two long ribbons attached to the top corners. The priest puts it over his shoulders, tucking it in around the neck to hide his cassock and collar. It is worn whenever the alb does not completely cover the ordinary clothing at the neck (GI* 297).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

b. *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.

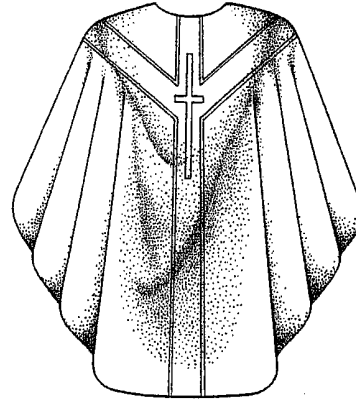
c. *Cincture* — This is a long cord used for fastening some albs at the waist. It holds the loose-fitting type of alb in place and is used to adjust it to the proper length. The cincture is usually white, although the liturgical color of the day may be used.

*GI stands for *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*.

d. *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.)



STOLE



CHASUBLE

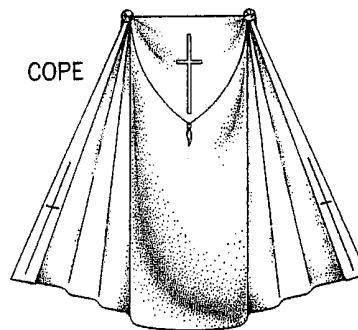
e. *Chasuble* — The chasuble is the sleeveless outer vestment, slipped over the head, hanging down from the shoulders and covering the stole and alb. It is the proper Mass vestment of the priest and its color varies according to the feast. The server, standing behind, should see that it hangs properly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



DALMATIC

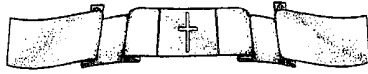
Other vestments used in liturgical ceremonies are:

f. *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

g. *Cope* — A cape-like vestment which is put on over the shoulders and hangs to the ankles, it is open in the front and clasped at the neck. The priest frequent-



BENEDICTION VEIL

ly wears it in processions, at Benediction, and in other services. Copes can be found in any of the liturgical colors.



SERVER'S ALB

h. *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.



CASSOCK

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.



SURPLICE

j. *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.

k. *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.



CHALICE

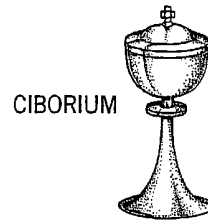
4. **ALTAR VESSELS** > Altar vessels are frequently called "sacred" because they have a distinctive role in our worship.

a. *Chalice* — The large cup used at Mass to hold the wine which becomes the blood of Christ.

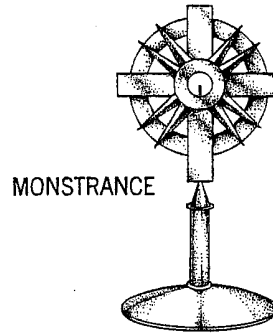
b. *Paten* — This is a saucer-like dish which usually matches the chalice with which it is used. It holds the bread which becomes the body of Christ.



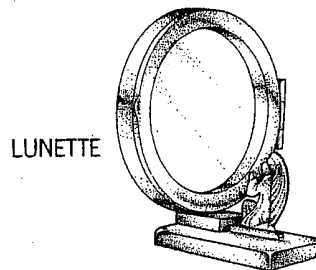
c. *Ciborium* — This is a cup-like vessel (usually large) with a lid. It contains the hosts that will be used for communion. It is also used to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.



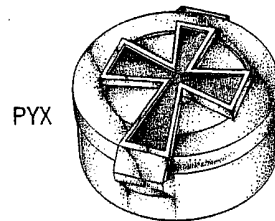
d. *Monstrance* — This is a large, ornate vessel used to hold the Blessed Sacrament for Benediction and eucharistic processions.



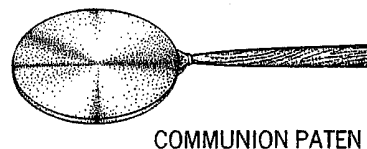
e. *Lunette* — A thin, circular receptacle, having a glass face which holds the Consecrated Host used at Benediction. It slides into the monstrance on a track.



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

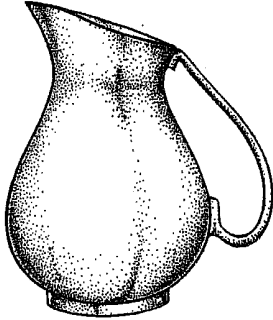


g. *Communion Paten* — This is a plate with a handle which a server uses to catch communion crumbs. The server stands at the right side of the communion minister and holds the paten under the chin of the one receiving, when the person receiving Communion does not receive it in the hand.

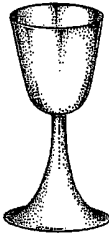




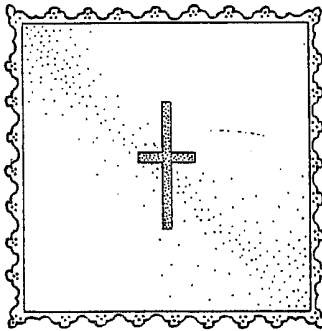
LARGE PATEN or BREAD PLATE



FLAGON or DECANTER



COMMUNION CUP



PALL

h. *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 which 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.

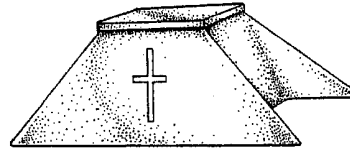
i. *Flagon or Decanter* — This is the bottle or carafe-like vessel used to hold the wine which will be consecrated at Mass for the communion of the people. It is filled before Mass and brought to the rear of the church for the procession that will bring the gifts forward.

j. *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.

5. **MISCELLANEOUS** > Other articles used at Mass include the following:

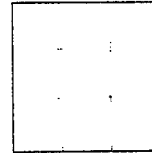
a. *Pall* — This is the stiff, square, white cover that is placed over the paten when it is on the chalice and over the chalice during Mass to protect its contents.

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



CHALICE VEIL

c. *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.



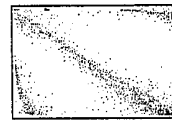
CORPORAL

d. *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.



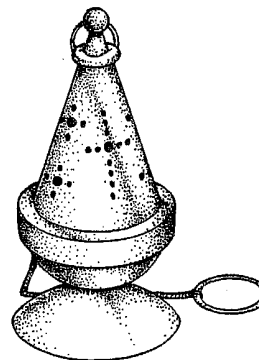
PURIFICATOR

e. *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.

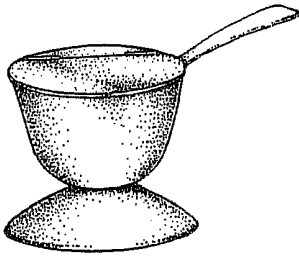


FINGER TOWEL

f. *Thurible* — The metal container extended from a chain (or chains) in which charcoal and incense are burned for liturgical ceremonies. It has a lid which can be raised. It is sometimes called a censer.



THURIBLE



BOAT

g. *Boat* — This is a small metal container, which 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

h. *Aspergillum* — Also called the holy water sprinkler, it is a perforated metal ball or tube on a handle which 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.