

# ✠ Faith Seeking Understanding

## *Items used at Mass & Liturgies*

Objects + Vestments + Books + Vessels

### Objects within the Church



#### **Altar**

On which the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs is also the Table

of the Lord to which the People of God are called together to participate in the Mass, as well as the center of thanksgiving that is accomplished through the Eucharist.

Only what is required for Mass is placed on the altar: namely from the beginning of the celebration until proclamation of the Gospel, *the Book of the Gospels*; then from Presentation of the Gifts until the purification of the vessels, the chalice with the paten, a ciborium and finally the corporal, the purificator, the pall, and the Missal.



#### **Ambo**

The dignity of the word of God requires that the church have a suitable place for the proclamation of the word and toward which the attention of the whole congregation of the faithful naturally turns during the Liturgy of the Word.

The Ambo is also referred to as The Table of the Word. From the ambo only the Readings, Responsorial Psalm, and Gospel are proclaimed. It may also be 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.



#### **Chair for Priest Celebrant**

Must signify his office of presiding over the gathering and of directing prayer. The Deacon would sit to the right of the Celebrant..



#### **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



#### **Baptismal Font**

By the mystery of Baptism, we begin a journey of faith by entering into a unique spiritual relationship with our Heavenly Father, receiving the Holy Spirit, becoming a disciple, a follower of Christ and a

member of God's family, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church and being called to eternal life.



#### **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 are visible to remind the community that God

chooses to use the things of this earth to impart His grace.



### **Paschal Candle**

Is blessed at the Easter Vigil and is the first light that leads the faithful into the darkened church. 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 for throughout the Easter Season, all instances of baptism as the light of Christ and at Funerals.



### **Cross**

There should be a Cross, with the figure of Christ crucified upon it, either on the altar or near it, where it is clearly visible to the congregation. It is appropriate that such a cross, which calls to mind for the faithful the saving Passion of the Lord, remain near the altar even outside of liturgical celebrations.



### **Tabernacle**

The shrine where the Eucharist is kept that serves as a place for the exclusive reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. As a sign of reverence and adoration one genuflects whenever passing in front

of the Tabernacle.



### **Sanctuery Lamp**

There is always a single light burning by the Tabernacle to show the real presence of Jesus (body, soul, & divinity) in the Eucharist. This light also represents our watchfulness before Christ, the Light of the World.

## **Sacred Vestments**



### **Alb**

Symbolizes: Purity. A long white robe worn at liturgical celebrations by the celebrant, deacon or acolyte. The alb (from Latin "alba", meaning "white") can be traced to the ancient Roman alb worn under a cloak or tunic. 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.

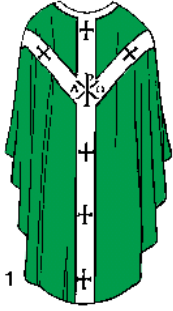
the Office of the Priest. A priest wears it around the neck, hanging down in front.



### **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.

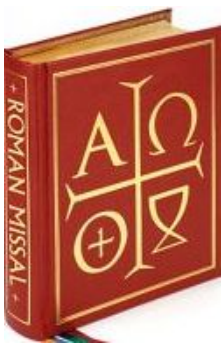


### **Humeral Veil**

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**

The 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**

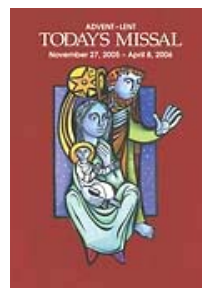
The Book of the Gospels is a visible sign of Jesus Christ the Word of God. It is to be carried in procession at the entrance of the Mass by the Deacon and then enthroned at the center of the altar. A Lector may process with the book when a Deacon is not present.



### **Lectionary**

Contains the Scripture Readings for Mass (First and Second Readings, 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.



### Communion Cups

Chalice that are used at communion when the people receive from the cup. 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 Towel

Used by the Priest to dry his hands after the Cleansing Rite.



### 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. It is also used during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The fragrant smoke of incense symbolizes our prayers rising to Heaven and purifying what it touches.