

## Glossary of Terms

**Alb** – the white tunic worn by liturgical ministers during the Mass. Any baptized person can wear an alb. The word means “white.”

**Altar** – the large table in the center of the sanctuary. It has been consecrated by the Archbishop and is the primary symbol of Christ in the church.

**Altar Candles** – the large candles surrounding the Altar.

**Altar Cloth** – the cloth that covers the altar. It is only removed on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

**Ambo** – the stand where the Lectionary is placed and from which the Scriptures are proclaimed.

**Ambry** – the cabinet where the Holy Oils are displayed.

**Aspergillum** – the sprinkler that the priest uses to sprinkle Holy Water on the people during certain rites.

**Book of Gospels** – the gold leaf book carried in **procession** by the Deacon, and read from by the Priest or Deacon. It only contains readings from the Gospels.

**Bucket** – contains the Holy Water and the **aspergillum**

**Candlelighter** – a long-handled implement with a taper and candlesnuffer used for the lighting and extinguishing of candles.

**Censor** – also called the “**thurible**”. A brass vessel with a long chain which holds the lighted charcoal in which the incense is burned.

**Chalice** – The gold-plated stemmed cup into which the priest pours the water and wine during the Offertory.

**Chasuble** – the large poncho-like outer garment worn by the priest for the celebration of the Mass.

**Ciborium** – a vessel used to hold the hosts or the Blessed Sacrament. The plate used to hold the Body of Christ for the distribution of communion is also called a **Ciborium (plural = ciboria)**

**Cinture** – the rope or cord tied around the waist. It is usually knotted on the left side.

**Collection basket** – the brown wicker baskets used to hold the gifts of money or food that people bring at the Offertory.

**Communion chalices** – the cups used by the Communion Ministers to distribute the Precious Blood.

**Cope** – a long cloak, open in the front and secured with an ornate clasp. The cope is used in Processions.

**Corporal** – the large, square linen cloth usually with a red cross embroidered in the

middle or on the bottom, which is placed on top of the Altar. The word “corporal” comes from the Latin word meaning “body.”

**Credence Table** – the tables that hold most of the things used in the Mass.

**Cruets** – small pitchers that hold the water and wine to be used at Mass.

**Dalmatic** – the outer vestment worn by a deacon during Mass. Unlike a **chasuble**, it has sleeves.

**Hand towel** – small towel the priest uses to dry his hands after washing them.

**Holy Oils** – the Oil of Catechumen (used for Baptism), the Oil of the Infirm (used in Anointing of the Sick) and the Sacred Chrism (used for all permanent Sacraments – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders).

**Humeral Veil** – a rectangular shaped cloth, about 8 feet long and 1 ½ feet wide, used in Eucharistic Processions to hold a **Ciborium** or **Monstrance** containing the Blessed Sacrament.

**Genuflect** – to touch the right knee to the ground in worship

**Incense** – sweet smelling, perfumed resins that are burned to sanctify certain objects and to represent our prayers rising up to God.

**Incense Boat** – Holds the incense and spoon used during Mass

**Large host** – It’s large so that the people can see it during Mass.

**Lavabo bowl** – glass dish used at the washing of hands.

**Lectionary** – the large book which contains all the readings used in the Mass.

**Lector** – the minister who proclaims the first and second readings and sometimes the psalm.

**Luna** – a round container made of glass and gilded metal which holds the Consecrated Host securely in place in the center of the **Monstrance**. (also can be called a lunette).

**Monstrance** – the receptacle in which the Consecrated Host is displayed during Eucharistic Adoration.

**Offertory Table** – the small table upon which are placed the Offertory gifts: the bread and wine.

**Pall** – a stiff square of white linen that can be used to cover the chalice during the Liturgy

**Paschal Candle** – the large candle that represents Christ, the Light of the world.

**Paten** – a small plate or dish, which holds the large host and sometimes small hosts that are used in the Mass.

**Presider’s Chair** – the chair that the celebrant sits in and “presides” during Mass.

**Priest's chalice** – the ornate cup used by the priest during the Eucharist. It is usually made of gold or silver.

**Procession** – any movement of the ministers in the church. There is an entrance procession and an exit procession. There may also be a procession of the Gospel book or of the Blessed Sacrament at special feasts.

**Processional Cross** – the crucifix carried by the Cross Bearer to lead the procession.

**Purificator** – small, folded rectangular linen used to purify or clean the chalice and communion cups. This helps to make sure that none of the Precious Blood is lost.

**Pyx** – a small, round container used to carry the Blessed Sacrament.

**Roman Missal** – the large red book containing the prayers used during the Mass.

**Sacrarium** – a special sink that leads to the ground where sacred materials and water from absolutions is disposed. Sacred elements never go into the trash or sewer system.

**Sacristy** – the room where the priests and deacons vest. All of the vessels and linens are found here as well.

**Sanctuary** – the raised area at the front of the church.

**Stole** -- a long strip of cloth worn by an ordained minister as a sign of his office. A priest wears the stole over both shoulders. A deacon wears it over one shoulder. It symbolizes a yoke or harness.

**Tabernacle** – the special place where the Blessed Sacrament is held in reserve so that it might be taken to the sick and the dying, or for adoration by the people.

**Tapers** – the wax sticks used in the **candlelighter** to light the **Altar Candles**.

**Thurible** – another name for the **Censor**.

**Vest** – to get dressed in vestments. For a server this means to put on your alb and cincture.

**Vestments** – special garments worn by those who have a special part in the Mass. The priest, deacon and servers usually wear vestments.

**Wine Flasks or Flagons** – pitchers that hold the wine to be consecrated during Mass. They are larger than a cruet.