

Definitions

Here is an alphabetical listing of the names, places and things that Altar Servers should know. Memorize these terms and know how to find the places and identify the objects.



ALB - The long white garment worn by Priests, Deacons and Altar Servers.

ALTAR - The holy table upon which the Priest offers the sacrifice of the Mass.

ALTAR CLOTH - The white cloth covering the Altar.

AMBO (also called a lectern or pulpit) - The stand from which the Word of God is proclaimed during the Readings of sacred scripture.



BOAT A vessel used to carry the grains of incense before the incense is placed in the Thurible.

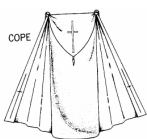


CHALICE The large gold or silver cup that is used by the Priest that holds the wine to be consecrated and become the Blood of Christ.

CINCTURE The long cord or rope sometimes worn around the waist over the Alb.



CIBORIUM The special sacred vessel used to hold consecrated hosts.



COPE A long cape the priest or deacon wears for certain services, such as Benediction.



CORPORAL A large white cloth that goes on top of the altar cloth. All sacred vessels are placed on the corporal. For example, the chalices and the ciborium.

CREDENCE TABLE The side table where the sacred vessels, containing the offerings that are to be consecrated into the Body and Blood of Christ, are kept.



CRUETS Small, crystal bottles with a stopper used for water or wine.



HAND WASHING TOWEL (also referred to as finger towel) Used by the Priest to dry his hands after the ritual washing during Mass.



HUMERAL VEIL A long veil that is placed around the priest's shoulders and covers his hands. It is worn in Benediction for the blessing.

MISSAL (formerly called the Sacramentary) The sacred book used by the Priest that contains all of the prayers of the Mass.

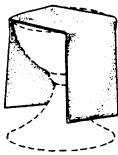


MONSTRANCE A tall gold-plated or silver vessel used to expose the Blessed Sacrament during Benediction or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.



PATEN The small shallow round plate or bowl shaped plate, on which the Priest's Host is placed

PALL The small, stiff linen square which the Priests will sometimes use to cover the Chalice.



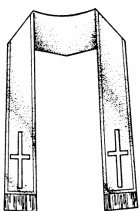
PURIFICATOR The cloth used to clean the chalice. Important Note: Since the Purificator will come into contact with the Precious Blood when wiping the communion cups and chalices, it is treated with special care.



PYX Small round or square container that is used to take Holy Communion to the sick.

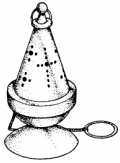
SACRISTY The vesting room. We have two: one for the priests and another for the servers. The servers' sacristy is located on the Springhill Avenue side of the church. The priests' sacristy is located on the parking lot side of the church.

SANCTUARY The area around the Altar occupied by the raised platform upon which the Altar stands.



STOLE a long narrow band of material that resembles a shawl and is the sign of authority of the Priest or Deacon. The Priest wears it straight down and the Deacon wears it to one side.

TABERNACLE The locked gold cabinet on the small table behind the Altar. The Tabernacle is used to reserve consecrated hosts which are the Body of Christ. Because the Tabernacle houses the Blessed Sacrament we pay special reverence to the Tabernacle. A lighted candle (the red vigil lamp) is kept burning near the Tabernacle at all times when the Body of Christ is in the Tabernacle.



THURIBLE A bowl shaped devise suspended by chains in which charcoal and incense is placed. It is also called a “censer.”