

Pastor's note  
15th week of Ordinary Time

This week I want to briefly talk about the center of our Church, the altar. As I have discussed before, the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and therefore the altar is the concrete place we reverence as it makes this reality present to us.

When we celebrate the Mass, we become partakers in the one sacrifice of Christ. We in a very real way enter into Heaven, even if we are still unable to fully grasp this. As a result, when we are in the midst of our celebration the altar is the center of everything we do. The first and last thing I do each mass is reverence the altar, which among its other roles, represents Christ. As the priest and servers move around the sanctuary, we reverence the altar, not the tabernacle. As I am praying the mass my instructions either tell me to face the people (the congregation) or the altar. In having these as my main two instructions, we see that we are either being called to enter into prayer, adore our Lord or to be facing the greatness that is preparing to come into our midst.

Ideally the altar is large, ornate and set in place as it represents Christ. If there is one thing left in a church after everything else has been destroyed through age, storm or whatever, it should be the altar. We are blessed with altars in our churches that match this description. The design that goes into making these present should remind us often of the fact that Christ is immovable and if there is only one part of our life that remains, it should be Him and our relationship with Him.

The Church goes beyond just what we say and in our prayers, but also about the items that we use for prayer. Pay just as much attention to them as anything else to better understand the mysteries we are celebrating.

God bless,  
Fr. Adam