

MY BOOK
of the
SACRAMENTALS
and
VESTMENTS
of the
LITURGY

THE LITURGY

“Liturgy” comes from a Greek word that means “the public duty of men”. What is the greatest duty (and privilege) that we have? It is to worship God! As Catholics, we are all part of the Church, members of the living Body of Christ. The liturgy is how we, the Church, publicly worship God. The crowning form of the liturgy is the celebration of the Holy Mass. In fact, the Mass is the most important thing we do as Catholics. The Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ! It’s so important that we use special language and special things—clothes, vessels, linens—to show how sacred the Mass is. This little book will help you remember the words and the names, and give you a deeper understanding of what you see during the Mass.

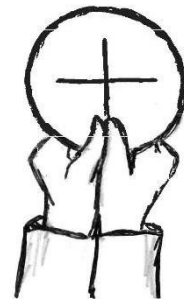
Bread and Wine: These are what we have before Consecration.

Body and Blood of Jesus Christ: This is what the bread and wine become through Consecration.

Consecration: The prayer spoken by the priest, standing *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ).

Transubstantiation: The bread and wine are transformed (in substance, but not in appearance)

consecration

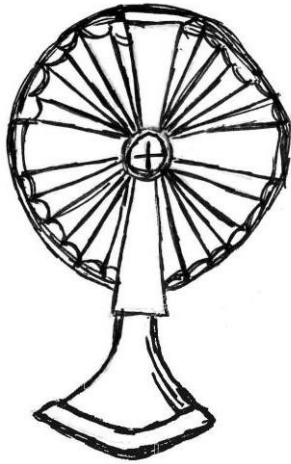


into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Priest and deacons are the “ordinary”—or usual—ministers of Holy Communion.

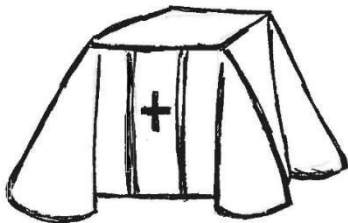
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: The Church permits lay people to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. These ministers are called “extraordinary” because they’re not the ordinary ministers and have special permission to assist.

VESSELS & ALTAR LINENS



monstrance

Monstrance: The name “monstrance” is taken from the Latin word “monstrare”, which means “to show”. The monstrance is a large vessel used to show Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to everyone. It is usually beautifully made, befitting a proper “home” for the Body of Our Lord.



chalice veil

Chalice Veil: This linen is used to cover the chalice and paten.



chalice

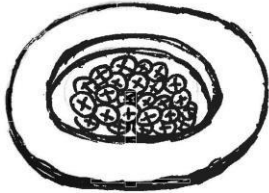
Corporal: The name for this linen comes from a word meaning “the body”; the corporal is unfolded and placed on the altar before the consecration to catch any of the crumbs that might fall from the Eucharist during the Consecration.

Chalice: The chalice is the precious cup that holds the Wine which becomes Jesus’ Blood.



purificator

Purificator: This linen is used to clean— or “purify”—chalices after each person



paten

receives the Precious Blood of Christ.

Paten: This flat, thin dish holds the host that will become Jesus' Body at the Consecration.



**chalice
with pall**

Pall: This white linen is a stiff square piece of material that covers the chalice to protect it from contamination

Ciborium: This precious vessel resembles the chalice, but it has a lid. The Sacred Hosts are kept in here for distribution of Holy

Communion and, after Mass, to be reserved in the Tabernacle.



ciborium



cruets

Cruets: These are two small glass or crystal containers that hold the water and wine which will be poured into the Chalice for the Consecration.



pyx

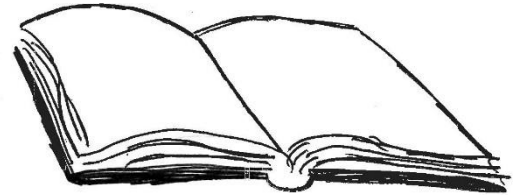
Pyx: This is a small container made of precious metal and used for carrying Sacred Hosts to the sick.

Aspergilium: This is an instrument used for sprinkling holy water.

Secrarium: This is the special sink in the sacristy (the room where the priest vests and

prepares for Mass). When the sacred vessels are purified after Mass, the water used to clean them can't just go down into pipes like normal water does. This water might have tiny particles of Our Lord's Sacred Body or a drop of His Sacred Blood! This water must go directly into the ground. The sequarium drains straight down into the earth.

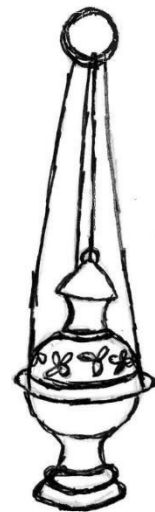
Lectionary: This is the book that contains the readings and the Gospel read at Mass.



lectionary

Sacramentary/Roman Missal: This book includes all the prayers the priest prays during the Mass.

Thurible: This is a metal censer used for burning incense; it hangs from chains so it can be swung to spread the smoke and smell. The smoke is like our prayers



thurible

Boat:

This is the small container in which the unburned incense is carried.



boat

VESTMENTS

(From the Latin for “clothing”)



amice

When the priest prepares for Mass, he dresses himself in very special clothing. Each vestment has a specific meaning and purpose. As the priest (or deacon) vests himself, he prays a special prayer for each article of clothing.

alb with cincture

Amice: This white vestment is worn to cover the priest’s clothing around the collar and for protection from the assaults of the devil.

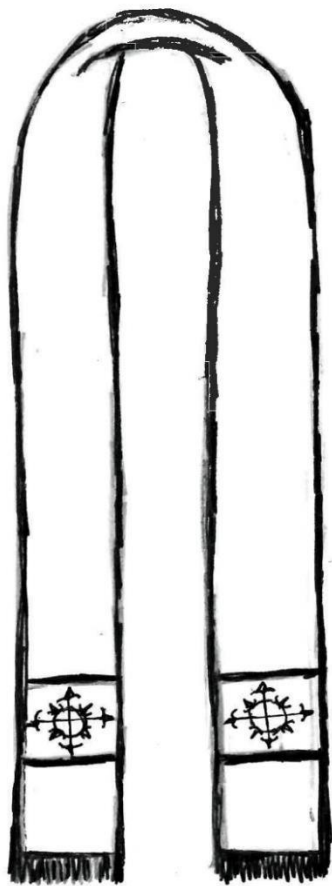
Alb: This white robe is worn next, representing purification.

Cincture: This is the long rope made of linen, silk, or cotton, worn around the priest’s waist. It is a symbol of the priest’s purity and of Jesus’ sacrifice as he was scourged at the pillar.



Stole: The stole is a long, thin vestment, worn around the neck. It is a symbol of the teaching authority of the Church. As the priest puts it on, he prays for eternal joy in union with God. The color of the stole corresponds to the liturgical season. In Roman times, the stole was symbol of the office of the head steward of a household. When the master of the house entered the house, the steward donned the stole and washed the feet of his master.

Chasuble: Also corresponding to the Liturgical Season, this large colored garment is what the main celebrant or priest wears during Mass. As the priest puts this on, he prays that he will practice charity always.

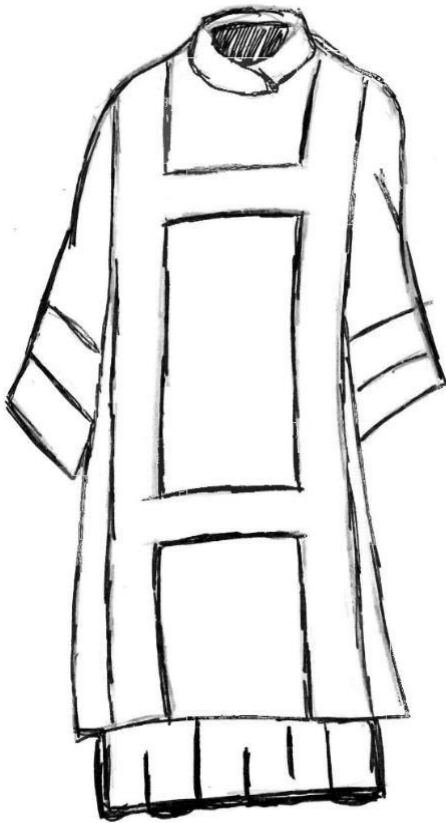


stole



chasuble

dalmatic



cope



**humeral veil
monstrance**

Dalmatic: This is the large colored garment worn by a deacon. As he puts it on, he prays for salvation, joy, and justice.

Cope: This is a large cape worn by the priest during solemn processions or during benediction.

Humeral Veil: This fabric is worn across the priest's shoulders when he carries the monstrance in procession or during Exposition (when Our Lord is "exposed" or set out for all to see during Adoration).

Habit: At St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, which is served by friars in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), all of our priests wear the “habit”—the distinctive clothes of their religious order.



**St. Dominic in the Dominican Habit
with Torch, the Dominican Hound**

LITURGICAL COLORS

Just like our calendar year, the liturgical year is divided into special liturgical seasons. We also celebrate many, many important feasts throughout the year. Each liturgical season or type of feast is represented by a specific liturgical color.

White: White represents celebration, purity, something clean and fresh and new. White is worn during the Christmas and Easter Seasons and on major Solemnities of the Church. Sometimes white is also worn for funerals and Masses for the dead. It can also be worn on minor feast days and for saints who are not martyrs.

Red: Red represents fire, warmth, and the blood of sacrifice. Red is worn during Pentecost, on some special feasts of the Cross, on Palm Sunday, on Good Friday, and on the feast days of martyrs.

Purple: Purple represents penance, preparation, and sacrifice. Two shades of purple are often used in the Liturgical year: a more pinkish purple is used for Advent (when we prepare for the birth of Our Lord) and a deeper purple is used for Lent (when we are preparing, with Christ, for His Passion, Death, and Resurrection). Sometimes purple is also worn for funerals and Masses for the dead.

Rose: Rose is the color of hope! We see it twice during the Liturgical year: on Gaudete Sunday (the Third Sunday in Advent; Gaudete means “Rejoice!”) and on

Laetare Sunday (the Fourth Sunday in Lent; Laetare means “Be Joyful!”). Even when we are in the midst of penance and preparation, the Church reminds us of the hope that is in us!

Green: Green represents a time of growth. It is worn in “ordinary time”—which means the time that we count according to ordinal numbers (First, Second, Third, Fourth, etc.). “Ordinary Time” doesn’t mean boring or common. It means the time when we aren’t in penance or celebrating, but we are still growing in the Life of Christ.

Black: Black is the color of mourning. It may be worn on All Souls Day. Sometimes black is also worn for funerals and Masses for the dead.

Gold: Gold can be substituted in place of white, green, and red.