



Glossary of Altar Serving items

VESTMENTS

Vestments are forms of clothing worn by various people during the Mass.



Alb



Cincture

Priest



Chasuble

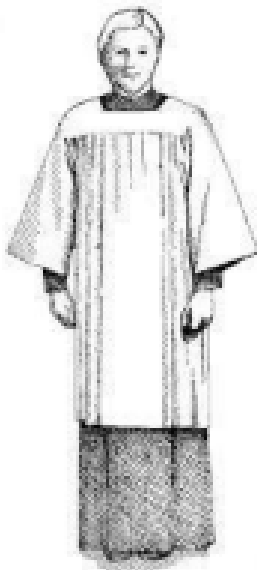


Stole



Amice

Altar Server



Cassock

The black buttoned garment worn over one's street clothes.

Surplice

The white garment worn over the cassock. It is white and it recalls the white garment worn at baptism. It's a reminder that one's ministry is rooted in one's identity as a baptized Christian

Alb: A long linen tunic, worn since the fourth century. The name comes from the Latin word, 'albus', meaning white, worn by ordained ministers as well as Altar Servers.

Altar: The table on which the Eucharist is celebrated.

Ambo: Also called the Pulpit. This is where the readers (Lectors), Deacon, and Priest proclaim the word of God to the people.

Amice: An oblong, white cloth with two tapes which the Priest sometimes wears around his shoulders, underneath the alb.

Aspergillum: a brush or small perforated container with a handle. It is used for sprinkling holy water. Boat: The container inside which the incense is kept.

Book of the Gospels: Contains all the Gospel readings for the Church's year. It is brought to the Ambo during the Gospel acclamation. It may be carried into church as part of the entrance procession on the Altar before the celebration begins.

Celebrant's Chair: The chair on which the presiding Priest sits.

Censer: The container inside which charcoal is burned, it is suspended from chains and is also swung during parts of the service. This contains the burning charcoal on to which grains of incense are placed. Incense has been used since early times to honor people and things. For this reason during our worship we incense the people and Priest, the Altar, the Book of Gospels, and the Blessed Sacrament.

Chalice: The cup that contains the precious Blood of Christ.

Chasuble: The word literally means 'little house'. Worn at Mass, it covers all the other vestments and its color changes according to the season of the Church's year. This was originally a coat; it now symbolizes the garment of Christ who is the true Celebrant of every Eucharist.

Ciborium: A container that holds the Body of Christ.

Cincture: A rope belt that is tied around the waist.

Confessional / Reconciliation Room: Here we meet with the Priest to confess our sins and, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance, receive God's forgiveness in the prayer of absolution.

Cope: A large, full-length cape, held by a clasp at the front, worn for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and on other solemn occasions.

Corporal: Its name comes from the Latin word 'corpus' meaning a 'body'. It is a square of white cloth, on which the chalice and paten are placed during the Mass, to catch particles of the Blessed Sacrament, should any ✠ fall from the vessels. The corporal is placed on the Altar either before Mass begins. In some churches it is placed on the Altar during the preparation of the gifts.

Credence table: The wooden side table or side shelf on which all the things that are necessary for the Mass are placed.

Crucifix: A cross on which is the figure of Jesus.

Cruet: Small vessel that contains water or wine for the Mass.

Dalmatic: A sleeved top garment worn by a Deacon.

Font: This is a pool or vessel of water in which people are baptized. It reminds us of our baptism, when we were washed clean of sin and became a member of God's family.

Host: The bread used in the Eucharist, normally round. After consecration, it becomes the Body of Christ, which is also called the Precious Body.

Humeral veil: A long rectangular garment, held by a clasp at the front, worn by a Priest or Deacon when carrying a Ciborium or Monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament.

Incense: A substance that gives off clouds of sweet smelling smoke when sprinkled onto burning charcoal.

Incense Boat: So called because it is usually shaped like a boat, it contains the incense, which will be burned in the thurible.

Lavabo Bowl and Finger Towel: At the preparation of the gifts the Priest washes his hands to signify the cleansing of the sins of those gathered and to prepare himself for what he is about to do.

Lectern: The stand from which the cantor leads the congregation in song.

Lectionary: A book containing all the scripture readings for Mass. It is placed on the lectern before Mass begins.

Luna: A circular sacred vessel with glass sides that holds the Sacred Host in the Monstrance.

Missal: A book that the Priest uses at his chair and at the Altar.

Monstrance: a vessel in which the Precious Body is exposed for the adoration of the faithful. Pall: a square of linen stiffened with cardboard covers the chalice(s). The smaller one covers the Celebrant's chalice and the larger covers the tray of chalices.

Paten: A plate from which Holy Communion is distributed.

ProceSSIONAL Candles: These two candles are carried behind the processional cross in the entrance procession. They are placed behind the Altar Servers' seating to be available for the solemn Gospel Procession.

ProceSSIONAL Cross: This is carried into church at the head of a procession, as a sign of our faith, and is the basic symbol of Christianity. It reminds us that Jesus died for us.

Purificator: A cloth that is used to wipe the chalice each time it is used.

Pyx: A small metal container, used to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. Sacristy: The room where the ministers prepare themselves for the service.

Sacrarium: A drain that empties directly into soil and is used for disposing of water used to wash sacred items.

Sanctuary: Sacred part of the church where the Altar, ambo and Celebrant's chair are located.

Sanctuary Lamp: The lamp that is kept burning in the sanctuary to show that the Blessed Sacrament is present.

Stations of the Cross: These depict, in fourteen stages, the journey of Jesus to Calvary, his crucifixion on the cross and his laying in the tomb.

Stole: This important vestment, worn around the neck, shows that the Priest is celebrating one of the Sacraments. It also shows that the Priest has the duty to preach the Word of God. (It is also worn by the Deacon, diagonally over his left shoulder.)

Tabernacle: The contained where we keep the Blessed Sacrament. It is always appropriate to genuflect when passing in front of the tabernacle.

Tabor Stand (aka Thabor): a stand for the Monstrance. Tabor is traditionally regarded as the mountain where the Transfiguration took place.

Thurible: vessel that holds the burning incense.

Vimpe: Similar to the humeral veil, this is worn by Altar Servers in more solemn masses presided by the bishop. The Servers wear the vimpe when holding the bishop's miter (hat) or crozier (pastoral staff).

Votive candles: These are burned at shrines and in front of statues to represent the prayers and petitions of those who have prayed there.