












Altar Server Study Guide









Vestments:

Special garments worn by the clergy, in conformity with Church regulations, at the celebration of the mass, administration of the sacrament, in procession, when giving blessings, and other occasions as appropriate. The use of vestments goes back to the ritual garb of the priesthood of Aaron. In the Catholic Church, even in catacomb days, priests and bishops were specially, if not always distinctively, garbed when celebrating the liturgy. With the Church's liberation and her emergence into public life, liturgical garments were commonly used to distinguish them from secular dress.

		<p>ALB A full length white linen vestment secured with a cincture used at Mass. An adaptation of the under tunic of the Greeks and Romans of the fourth century. It is blessed before being worn. It symbolizes the garment in which Christ was clothed by Herod and the purity of the soul with which the Sacrifice of the Mass should be offered. " (From the Latin albus, white.)</p>
		<p>CINCTURE A belt, girdle, or cord tied around the waist of an alb. Worn at Mass, it confines the garment. It is usually a cord with tassel of the liturgical color of the day. It symbolizes chastity. (From the Latin cinctura, a girdle.)</p>
		<p>STOLE A liturgical vestment composed of a strip of material, several inches wide, and worn around the neck by priests and bishops; at the left shoulder like a sash by deacons, for the celebration of Mass, administration of the sacraments, and ceremonies of the Blessed Sacrament.</p>
		<p>CHASUBLE A sleeveless outer garment worn by a priest and Bishop at Mass. It is worn over all other vestments and is made of silk, velvet, or other rich material usually decorated with symbols. The arms are to be free when it is worn. It symbolizes the yoke of Christ and signifies charity. (From the Latin casula, a little house; hence a mantle.)</p>



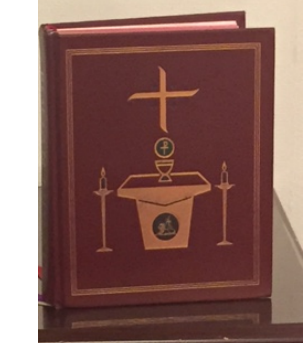
		<p>DALMATIC An outer liturgical garment worn by a deacon at Mass and in solemn processions. It has wide short sleeves, reaches to the knees, and is open at the sides. It is of the same material and color as the vestments of the celebrant. It was introduced from Dalmatia (hence its name) to Rome as a secular garment in the reign of the Emperor Diocletian.</p>
		<p>COPE A long cape worn by deacons, priests and bishops at certain religious rites. Open in front, like a mantle, it reaches to the floor and is fastened on the breast with a clasp. It is worn in processions, at Benediction, and at other solemn offices, Mass excepted. (From the Latin cappa, cape.)</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Front</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Back</p> </div> </div>		<p>HUMERAL VEIL A long oblong piece of silk or vestment material often richly ornamented or embroidered, worn over the shoulders and covering the hands of the deacon, priest or bishop as he gives the blessing with the Sacred Host in the monstrance at benediction. It is also used when sacred vessels with their reserved contents are carried from one tabernacle to another or in procession. (From the Latin humerus, the shoulder.)</p>
		<p>CASSOCK The ecclesiastical garb of all clerics. A long, close-fitting garment that is sometimes belted. For ordinary use it is usually black in color. Cardinals may wear one of red color or with red piping, cincture and buttons; a bishop may wear purple. The Pope's is always white. (From the Italian casacca, greatcoat.)</p>
		<p>SURPLICE A large-sleeved tunic of half length, made of linen or cotton, without a cincture, and occasionally embroidered at hem and sleeves. It is a liturgical garment worn by all clergy in choir, during processions, and when administering the sacraments. Worn over the cassock. (From the Latin superpellicium.) (Surplice is shown over cassock)</p>

Vessels:




		<p>CHALICE The large cup used by the priest to hold the wine that will become the Blood of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer</p>
		<p>PATEN The saucer like dish that is used to hold the large host that that will become the Body of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer</p>
		<p>CIBORIUM This is the cup like vessel with a lid that is used to hold the hosts that will become the Body of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer. It is also used to hold the Eucharist in reserve in the tabernacle</p>
		<p>COMMUNION CUP These are the smaller cups used to hold the wine that will become the Blood of Christ during the Eucharistic Prayer. Their purpose is to provide vessels to distribute the Blood of Christ to the congregation during Communion.</p>
		<p>CRUETS Used to hold water and wine for use during the celebration of the mass.</p>
		<p>AMBRY Set The vessels used to hold the Sacred Oils for display and use. The Blessed Oils are OS (Oleum Sanctum) the Oil of Catechumens, used to set aside someone for a sacred purpose. Used as part of the Baptismal Rite, Ordination of Priests and the coronation of kings and queens, and OI (Oleum Infirm) Oil of the Sick, used during anointing of the Sick. SC (Sacred Chrism) is a consecrated oil. It is used to bless the walls of the church, Bless the vessels used in the mass, particularly the Chalice, Ciborium and Paten, the head of the Bishop, the hands of the Priest and the head of the newly baptized and during the sacrament of Confirmation.</p>
		<p>OIL STOCKS Smaller vessels used to transport and use the Sacred Oils. Usually has some cotton inside that is saturated with the Sacred Oil.</p>

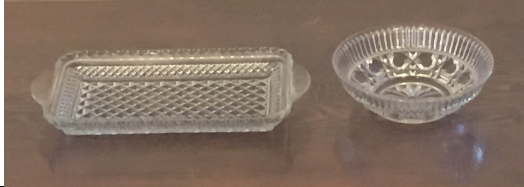
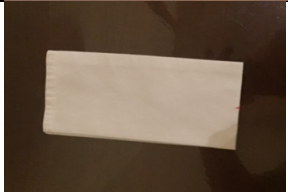








		<p>PYX and BURSE The Pyx is used to carry the Eucharist to the sick and homebound. The Burse is used to carry and protect the Pyx.</p>
<p>PYX</p>	<p>BURSE</p>	
		<p>TABERNACLE The place where the Eucharist is kept in repose.</p>
		<p>TABERNACLE KEY The key that is used to open the Tabernacle</p>
		<p>MONSTRANCE and LUNA The Monstrance is used to hold the Blessed Sacrament that has been placed in the Luna for Adoration and Benediction.</p>
<p>Front Luna Back</p>		

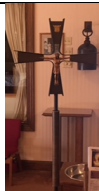
Books

	<p>THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS The Book that contains the Gospel readings for Sundays, Solemnities, and various other special masses. The Book of Gospels is treated with special reverence because it contains the words of Our Lord, Jesus. It is carried in solemn procession into the mass by the Deacon and remains on display after the mass because the Word has been proclaimed and is now carried out of the church in the hearts of the congregation.</p>
	<p>LECTIONARY The book that contains all of the readings for the mass. At Good Shepherd we have 5 lectionaries. 3 for the 3 cycles of Sunday masses (Cycle A is shown) and 2 for the 2 cycles of weekday masses. (The thick blue lectionaries)</p>
	<p>ROMAN MISSAL This book contains the prayers and instructions for the celebration of the mass. The prayers and printed in black, the instructions are in red, rubric in Latin. Hence the term 'follow the rubric' means to follow the instructions in the Church.</p>




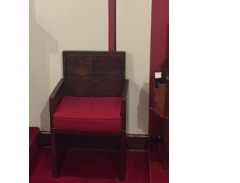
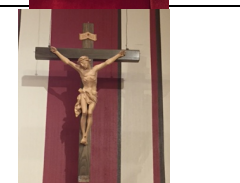
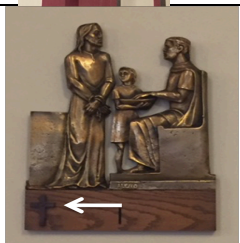

Items Used on the Altar



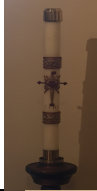


	<p>ALTAR BELLS These are rung at different times to call attention to a particular act on the part of the celebrant during the Mass, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and other ceremonies.</p>
	<p>BOOK STAND The book stand is there to hold the large Roman Missal so it is easier for the priest to read during the mass.</p>
	<p>PALL The pall keeps dust, and flying insects out of the chalice during the mass.</p>

	<p>LABAVO DISHES Glass dishes used during ceremonies and during the mass.</p>
	<p>PURIFICATOR A linen cloth used to dry the sacred vessels as they are cleansed after Holy communion. Also used to wipe the lip of the chalice and communion cups between communicants.</p>
	<p>MANATOR (FINGER TOWEL) The towel used by the priest to dry their hands after they are washed during the celebration of the mass.</p>
	<p>CORPORAL The term comes from the Latin word 'corpus' (body). It is placed on the altar to catch any of the Blessed Sacrament that may fall during the mass. The chalice, ciborium, and communion cups are all placed on the corporal during the mass. (This photo is of the corporal on the altar)</p>
	<p>CHALICE VEILS These are used to dress the chalice, purificator, paten, large host, and pall so they look nice before and after the mass. The color matches the Priest's vestments for the day and if possible, the pattern of the vestments as well.</p>
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	<p>CANDLE LIGHTER Used to light and put out the candles.</p>
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	<p>PROSESIONAL CRUCIFIX The crucifix that is used to lead processions. This particular crucifix was a gift to the church and has the names of the first class of altar servers at Good Shepherd engraved on the back.</p>
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Furnishings:

	<p>ALTAR This is the place where the clergy and the people gather. It is the place where the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present in the Sacrifice of the Mass.</p>
	<p>AMBO The pulpit from which the Word is proclaimed and Homilies are delivered.</p>
	<p>SELA (PRESIDER'S CHAIR) The seat of judgment. This is the chair where the presiding priest sits during the mass.</p>
	<p>SEDA (DEACON'S CHAIR) The place where the Deacon sits during the mass. It is placed immediately to the left of the sela as you face the chairs.</p>
	<p>CRUCIFIX A large crucifix is placed in every sanctuary. It is there to remind us of Our Lord's sacrifice and of what we are celebrating during the sacrifice of the mass.</p>
	<p>STATIONS OF THE CROSS 14 Stations, 7 on each side of the Nave. The actual station is the small wooden cross as pointed out by the arrow.</p>
	<p>PRAY-DEAUX or KNEELER A place to kneel and pray. One is usually in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the other is stored in the Sacristy.</p>

	<p>CREDENCE TABLE This is a table used to hold various items used during the mass and other ceremonies when they are not needed on the altar.</p>
	<p>TABERNACLE CANDLE This candle is kept burning whenever the Eucharist is present in the tabernacle.</p>
	<p>PASCHAL CANDLE This large candle is blessed during the Easter Vigil and is lit during the Easter Season, at Baptisms, Funerals, and other special ceremonies.</p>
	<p>PROCESSIONAL CANDLES These are used in procession during special masses. Normally they are next to the ambo and lit for Sunday mass.</p>
	<p>VOTIVE CANDLES These candles are lit by the people for special intentions. At Good Shepherd the intentions are usually written in the parish book of intentions.</p>

Spaces:

	<p>NAVE The part of the church building between the front and the sanctuary where the body of the faithful assemble.</p>
	<p>SANCTUARY The place in the church where the priest, deacon and servers preside over prayer, announce the Word of God and minister at the altar.</p>



SACRISTY

A room adjacent to the sanctuary or near the main entrance to the church containing the requisite materials for the celebration of the liturgy.



AMBRY

The location where the sacred oils are stored in the ambry set. This is the Ambry at Good Shepherd