

WORD DEFINITIONS



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Dan Gonzalez, his wife Elisa and their two children Matthew and Zoe.



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The Catholic Words Memory Match Card Game, a fun way for the entire family—or classroom—to learn new Catholic vocabulary words!



Instilling a love and reverence for the faith should begin at an early age. This game was borne out of my own desire to do just that for my own children. The Catholic Words Memory Match Card Game will provide parents, grandparents, teachers, homeschoolers, catechists and youth ministers a fun way to help teach Catholic vocabulary words.

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With these free printable definitions, the game cards become flash cards.

Show a card and read its definition. Let the child see the picture of the real-world object. Discuss where the object is seen at your local parish or in the home. Take the cards with you to church and point out the items before or after Mass. Then, let the games begin! *Catholic Words Memory Match* is an addictive way to learn new Catholic vocabulary words!

Watch your little one's excitement at Mass when they recognize the vessels, objects and vestments used in the liturgy. Introducing these words will help prepare them to receive the Sacraments and inaugurate a lifelong journey of learning about the wonders of their Catholic faith.

May God bless you and those entrusted to your care.

Dan Gonzalez

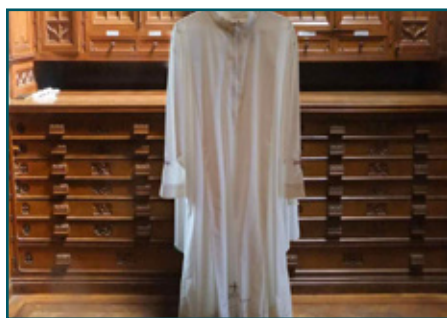


Advent Wreath: A wreath usually made of holly or evergreen branches that hold three purple candles and a rose one. These candles represent the four Sundays of Advent.

One purple candle is lit the first week, two the second, two purple and one rose (representing joy) the third and, in the last week of Advent, all four are lit.

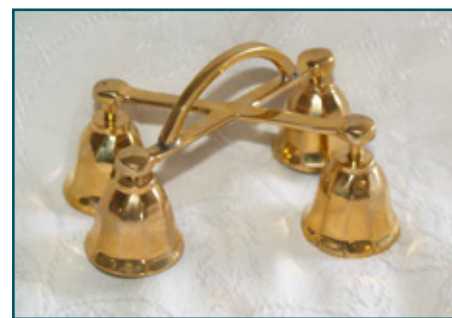
The light of the candles represents the light of Christ who will come to the world at Christmas. The circular shape of the wreath stands for eternity, because it has no beginning or end.

Advent wreaths are usually displayed in the home on a table or stand. Churches sometimes hang them from the ceiling.



Alb: A white robe with long sleeves worn by the priest under his chasuble and the deacon under his dalmatic. Altar servers also wear an alb. In fact, any baptized person may wear an alb when serving in the liturgy.

The alb is gathered at the waist by a belt called a *cincture*. The design of the alb is based on the typical Greek and Roman clothing worn in the first century. The word *alb* comes from the Latin *albus*, which means *white*—a color symbolizing purity.



Altar Bells: A bell or set of bells rung immediately after the consecration of each element (bread and wine) at Mass. Usually, it is the altar server who rings the bell.

Historically, the bells rang in huge European cathedrals to indicate that the consecration had taken place and it was proper for the faithful to worship.

The bells also *make a joyful noise to the Lord* to give thanks for the miracle that is taking place when the bread and wine become Jesus.

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Altar Candles: At every Mass, there must be at least two lit candles placed on or near the altar. These candles are called altar candles. More candles may be used on Sundays or on a Holy Day of Obligation. If the bishop is the celebrant and the Mass is within his diocese, there may be seven candles.

Altar candles are to be made with mostly beeswax, which represents the pure flesh of Christ. The wick represents the soul of Christ and the flame symbolizes his divinity. A Mass can't begin without the altar candles being lit.

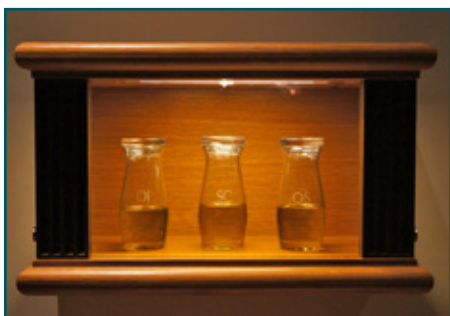


Altar: The altar is the place where the bread and wine are consecrated at Mass. A Catholic altar is usually attached to the floor (fixed), but it may be movable so it can be carried from one place to another. The altar is also the place where the Host is placed in a monstrance for Exposition and Adoration.

When an altar is dedicated after a new church is built or an old one is remodeled, it is sprinkled with holy water and anointed with Chrism oil before it is "dressed" in a white altar-cloth, much like a person who is baptized.



Ambo: An ambo is the pulpit or lectern from which the Scripture readings are proclaimed at Mass. The homily, Responsorial Psalm and petitions of the Universal Prayer may also take place at the ambo.

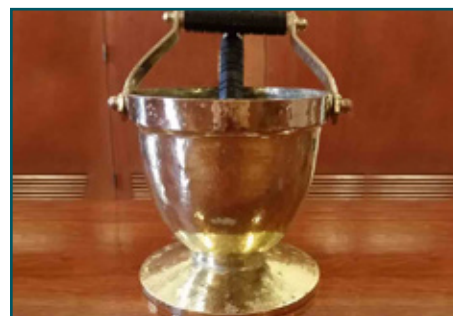


Ambry: A niche, recess, cupboard or cabinet where the three Holy Oils are kept. These oils are used at Baptisms, Confirmation, Priestly Ordination and to anoint the sick. An ambry often has glass doors and a light inside to display the Holy Oils and to show that they are sacred and important.



Aspergillum: An instrument used with an *aspersorium* (holy water bucket) to sprinkle holy water. Its name comes from the Latin *aspergere* which means *to sprinkle*.

The wand-shaped object is used to sprinkle holy water to bless people, a coffin at a funeral, at Baptism, to bless candles at Candlemas/ palms on Palm Sunday, and to bless a house or sacramental objects. Sometimes a priest may use a fresh-cut green branch or a small straw whisk in its place.



Aspersorium: A bucket-like basin with a handle for carrying holy water. It's used with the aspergillum during blessings. Usually an altar server carries the aspersorium while the priest dispenses holy water from the aspergillum.



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Baldachin: A baldachin (from Italian *baldacchino*) protects the Blessed Sacrament or sacred relics from the sun or rain during processions. The baldachin's shape may be like an umbrella or canopy and is carried on poles. A baldachin can also refer to the permanent canopy over the main altar in some churches.



Baptismal Font: The water basin or pool where the sacrament of Baptism is administered. Some churches place the baptismal font near the entrance so the faithful may dip their fingers and bless themselves and to emphasize that baptism is the sacrament of entry into the Church. Other parishes place the font closer to the sanctuary or in a separate building or room called a *baptistry*.



Baptismal Shell: A scalloped, shell-like dish used by priests and deacons to pour water over the head of those who are being baptized. The use of a scallop shell in baptism dates from ancient times and may symbolize the beginning of the Christian journey, since the scallop shell is a symbol of pilgrimage.



Biretta: A square, stiff cap with three or four ridges on top. The color of the biretta shows rank: a cardinal's is red, a bishop's purple. Priests, deacons, and seminarians wear black. The pope and many priests and deacons do not wear one. The Pope wears a hat called a *camauro*.



Book of the Gospels This book contains passages from all four Gospel accounts—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The priest or deacon uses it to read or chant the Gospel at Mass. The book is often beautifully decorated and may be carried in the entrance procession.



Burse: The burse is a 9 or 10 inch square case made of two pieces of cardboard covered with silk, lined with linen and bound together at three edges. It may be used to carry a folded corporal to and from the altar for Mass or Benediction.

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Cassock: A long sleeve, close-fitting, ankle-length robe used by clergy. It may be worn as an undergarment during liturgical functions, but it may also be used as an overgarment both indoors and outdoors.

The color and trim vary with rank: the Pope wears white, cardinals black with scarlet trim, archbishops and bishops black with red trim, others wear plain black. Cassocks are sometimes worn by seminarians, monks, and lay people when assisting with the Mass such as altar servers and choir members.



Chalice: A cup used to hold wine that will be consecrated at Mass. Chalices come in different styles, sizes and materials. Many of them are made of gold and decorated with engravings, jewels and precious stones. A priest often has his own chalice, which may have been given to him as a gift.



Chasuble: The sleeveless outer vestment worn by the priest over all other garments when he celebrates Mass. The poncho-like garment covers his entire body with only an opening for the head. The color of the chasuble varies according to the feast or season of the liturgical year.

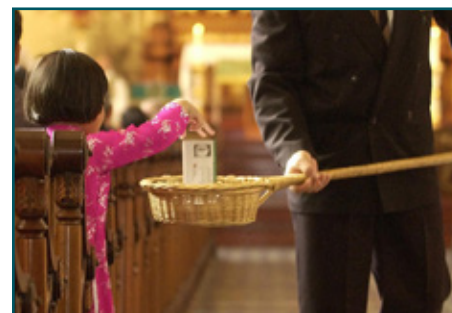


Ciborium: A covered container that holds unconsecrated Hosts (bread) and consecrated Hosts (Body of Christ) at Mass, and in the tabernacle. Usually made from either gold-plated brass or silver, lined with gold.



Cincture: A long, rope-like cord with a tassel or knot at the end that is tied at the waist over the alb. It is usually white, but the color may vary according to the liturgical season.

The cincture is symbolic of chastity and purity. Cinctures may be worn by priests, deacons or altar servers.



Collection Basket: A basket used to collect money offerings from the assembly. Some parishes have baskets on long poles so ushers can reach those seated in the center of the pew. Other parishes pass baskets from person to person. Money collected is used for the expenses of running a parish, and to donate to the poor.



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Confessional: A place designated for priests to administer the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation. It may be a box-like structure typically with three compartments separated with screens. The middle compartment is for the priest and the two side ones have kneelers for those who are confessing.

Many churches now have a reconciliation room in which the penitent may choose between confessing behind a screen, or confessing face-to-face.



Cope: The cope is a long semicircular cape, open in the front and reaching down to the ankles. It's fastened at the chest with a clasp. The cope is typically used on ceremonial occasions such as processions, benedictions and Eucharistic adoration. A cope may be worn by a priest, bishop or deacon, and in certain special circumstances, by other lay ministers.



Corporal: A white linen cloth about 20 inches square on which the chalice, paten and ciboria are placed on at the altar during Mass. During Benediction, the monstrance must also be placed on the corporal. When not in use, the corporal is folded three times each way so as to form nine equal squares and may be placed in a burse.

The corporal take its name from the Latin word *corpus* meaning *body*. A clean corporal is used at each Mass.



Credence Table: A small table placed to the side of the altar used to hold the chalice, paten, cruets, lavabo bowl and other liturgical objects when not in use.



Crosier: An ornamental staff shaped like a shepherd's crook that is carried by bishops and abbots as a symbol of their office. The hook is symbolically to pull back the straying sheep of the bishop's flock while the pointed end is to encourage the reluctant sheep.

A bishop typically holds the crosier with his left hand so he can bestow blessings with his right. The bishop carries it pointing outward. Altar servers carry it with the crook pointing inward.



Crotalus: A wooden clapper that is to be used in place of bells (in parishes that continue to use bells) during the 48-hours between the Holy Thursday Eucharist and the Easter Vigil. That time marks the period of the Passion of Christ and the bells of the church remain silent.

While few parishes use it, many, if not most monasteries, still do. The crotalus calls the brothers to pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

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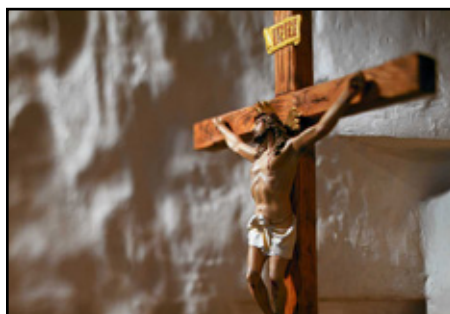
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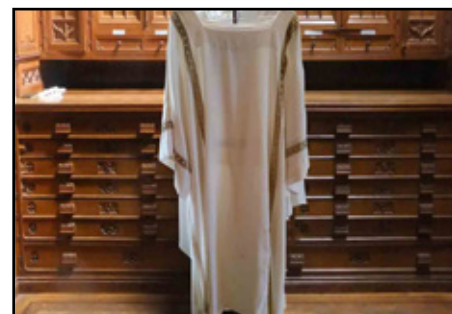


Crucifix: The crucifix is a cross to which there is attached a sculpted or painted image of Jesus' body. Wherever Mass is celebrated, a crucifix is to be visible. Most churches have one behind or over the altar.

A crucifix is also attached to the pendant part of all rosaries. A crucifix is commonly worn as jewelry around the neck or displayed on the wall of a Catholic home.



Cruets: Small pitchers, often with stoppers, that contain the water and wine used during Mass. They are typically made of glass so the water and wine can be easily distinguished. If they are made of metal, a V (*Vinum* - Wine) and A (*Aqua* - Water) are inscribed to identify its contents.



Dalmatic: A dalmatic is an outer vestment worn by a deacon with short open sleeves, an opening for the head, and open at the sides from the hem to the shoulders, reaching just below the knees. The deacon wears it during Mass, especially at solemn liturgies like the Sundays of Advent. The color of the dalmatic matches the chasuble worn by the priest and corresponds to the liturgical season.



Faldstool: A portable backless ceremonial chair used by bishops when celebrating Mass outside his cathedral. It may also be used for support when kneeling. The seat is made of cloth or leather and may have a cushion whose color corresponds to the liturgy season.

It is believed to have originated from the camp stool the bishop would use when he traveled throughout his diocese to visit parishes.



Flagon: A pitcher-like vessel used to hold liquids. A flagon is used for the wine carried up in the offertory procession when the people are to receive the Precious Blood at Communion. The wine is poured from the flagon into the cups before it is consecrated and becomes the Precious Blood.



Holy Oil Stock: Small containers used to store the three kinds of holy oils that will be used during the administration of the sacraments. When not being used, the stocks are stored in the ambry. The Oil of the Sick is often transported in a stock when a priest visits a sick person and anoints them outside of church.

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Holy Oils: There are three different kinds of holy oils that are used in the administration of sacraments:

- The Oil of Catechumens ("Oleum Catechumenorum" or "Oleum Sanctum" abbreviated "O.C." or "O.S."): used in Baptism, exorcism and to anoint the hands of priests at ordination.
- The Holy Chrism ("Sanctum Chrisma" abbreviated "S.C."): used in the anointing after Baptism, at Confirmation, conferring of Holy Orders and the Consecration of Churches.
- The Oil of the Sick ("Oleum Infirmorum" abbreviated "O.I."): used in the anointing of the sick or when praying for the sick and laying hands on them at healing services.

These oils are blessed at the cathedral by the bishop on Holy Thursday and are kept in an ambry. They are often in glass vessels inscribed with the abbreviation of the oils to identify them.



Holy Water Font: Containers that are filled with holy water. They may be free-standing or attached to the wall usually near the doors of churches so people may dip their fingers and bless themselves when entering and leaving—a baptismal reminder.



Host: A small, thin, round, unleavened wafer made of wheat flour consecrated and consumed at Mass. Before consecration, the Host is simply a piece of flattened bread but, after the words of consecration are spoken by the priest, the Host is the Body of Christ, in which he is really present.



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Hymnal: A book that contains the words and music for hymns that are sung at Mass. Hymnals are typically found on a rack at the back of each pew. Today, some parishes have permanent hymnals while others subscribe to renewable songbooks that are replaced every year and contain new songs.



Incense Boat A small container where incense is kept before use. From there, it will be spooned into the thurible by the bishop, priest or deacon for burning.



Lavabo Set: Lavabo is the ceremonial washing of the hands in the liturgy. A lavabo set includes a vessel for water and a dish. At Mass, the priest washes his hands after the offertory. He, or the altar server, pours water over his hands and uses the dish to catch the water. Some sets also include a lavabo towel for drying the hands. The word *lavabo* means *I shall wash* in Latin.

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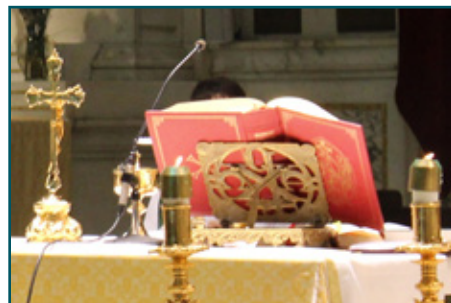


Lunette: The lunette is a circular container used to hold the host in place when it's placed in the monstrance for exposition. Lunettes are usually made of gold.



Miraculous Medal: In 1830, Our Lady appeared to Sister Catherine Laboure in France and asked her to have medals made just like the image of the Blessed Mother that Catherine was seeing in her vision:

Mary was in an oval frame standing on a globe. The frame showed the words "O, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." When the Blessed Mother turned, there appeared a circle of twelve stars, a large letter M surmounted by a cross and a heart crowned with thorns and a second heart pierced with a spear. This medal is known as "The Miraculous Medal" and is worn by many on a chain around the neck.



Missal Stand: A book stand with a slanted top used to hold the Roman Missal—the book containing the prayers of the Mass—in a convenient position for the celebrant during Mass so that he can read it when standing at the altar. The missal stand typically rests on the altar.



Miter: A miter (or mitre) is the tall hat that the bishop wears for ceremonies. It consists of two equal cone-shaped parts that rise up to a peak. The two parts are joined at the base by a cap of soft material so it can be folded flat. It has two decorative flaps attached to the brim that hang down the back. The miter is worn over a zucchetto.

The miter is worn when the bishop is seated, when he gives the homily, when he greets the people, addresses them, or gives the invitation to prayer, when he gives a solemn blessing to the people, when he confers a sacrament, and when he is walking in procession.



Monstrance: The monstrance (also called an "ostensorium") is the sacred vessel used for presenting the consecrated Eucharistic Host for Adoration or to carry it in procession.

The monstrance is usually made of gold or silver and often has radiating "rays" around the center. The Host can be seen at the center of the monstrance behind clear glass. The word monstrance comes from the Latin word *monstrare*, which means *to show*.

The priest or deacon will not touch the monstrance directly when it contains a Host. He will place his hands inside a cloth band that covers his shoulders called a humeral veil. Only then will he handle the monstrance.



Mozzetta: The mozzetta is a short cape that covers the shoulders to the elbow. The color of the mozzetta represents the rank of the person wearing it:

- Priests who are rectors of parishes: Black mozzetta
- Rectors of basilicas: Black mozzetta with red piping and buttons.
- Bishops: Violet mozzetta.
- Cardinals: Scarlet mozzetta
- Pope: Wears five different mozzettas depending on the season.

Some religious orders also wear the mozzetta as part of their religious habit.

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Offering Box: An offering box is usually placed at the entrance of the church. Visitors place their money offering through a slit at the top. Some are table-top in size but others are large enough to stand on the floor. Offering boxes may be made of any material. Some have a door than can be locked.

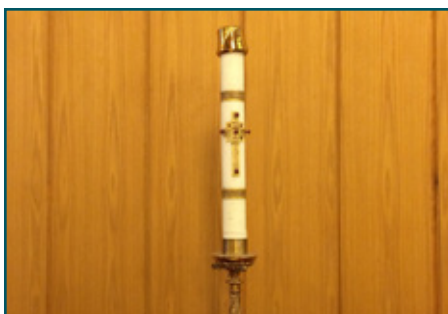


Pallium: The pallium is a white, woolen band with pendants in the front and in the back worn around the neck and shoulders over the chasuble. Seen from the back, it resembles the capital letter Y.

It is said to represent Christ the Good Shepherd, who carried the lost sheep on his shoulders. Only the Pope and archbishops wear the pallium. The pallium is given to archbishops at a ceremony in Rome on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29.



Palm Branches: On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, palm branches are blessed as Mass begins. On that day, the faithful attending Mass wave the branches as the priest and other attendants enter the church. This recalls the entry of Christ into Jerusalem when the crowds met him cheering "hosanna" and waving palm branches to honor him.

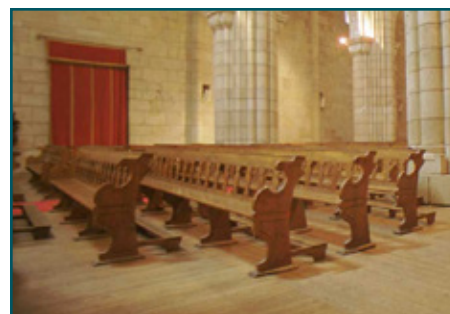


Paschal Candle: The Paschal Candle (or the Easter Candle) is a large, white candle made of beeswax. A new Paschal Candle is blessed and lit from the new Easter fire every year at the Easter Vigil—the night before Easter Sunday.

It always has the symbols for Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolizing that Christ is the beginning and end. It's used during the Easter season and throughout the year on special occasions such as baptisms and funerals.



Paten: The paten is used in the celebration of the Mass. It's a round shallow dish with thin edges made of gold or silver. The upper surface has to be at least gold plated. The paten usually holds the large Host (bread) to be consecrated.



Pew: A long bench with a back where the members of the congregation can sit. Pews are aligned to face the main altar and are fixed to the floor. They often have a rack to hold hymnals and missalettes as well as kneelers so the faithful can kneel on them rather than the floor.

Up until the middle of the 20th century, it was common in many parishes for families to pay yearly rent for their pew. Some modern churches have chairs for seating so they can be moved.



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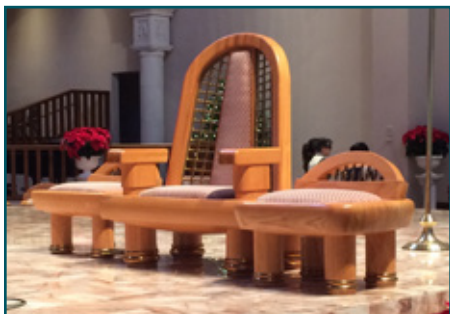
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President's Chair: The chair that the priest sits on during Mass. It's placed in the sanctuary of the church and should be turned to face the people. The chair symbolizes the importance of the role of the priest as leader of the community's prayer.



Purificator: The purificator is the white linen cloth used to purify the chalice and other cups after the celebration of the Eucharist. Purificators are also used to wipe the edge of the people's cups after each person receives the Precious Blood, when it is offered.



Pyx: The word pyx most often refers to a small, round container with a lid used to carry the Eucharist to the homebound or those in hospitals. However, any vessel that carries the Eucharist may be called a pyx.



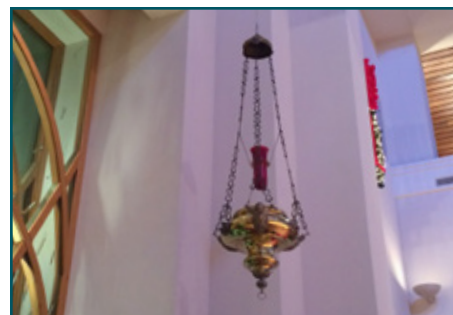
Reliquary: A reliquary is a container or case in which relics are kept. A relic can be the remains of a saint—such as bones—or something that belonged to a saint—like pieces of clothing.

Reliquaries are often beautifully decorated and vary in size according to the size of the relic. The relic is typically covered with a piece of glass so it can be seen.



Rosary: The rosary is a traditional prayer that originated in the Middle Ages consisting primarily of 5 sequences of 10 Hail Marys usually said using a string of beads to count the prayers.

During each set of 50 Hail Marys, it is customary to meditate on either the *Joyful*, *Sorrowful*, *Glorious* or *Luminous Mysteries*. Each mystery recalls events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. The string of beads used to pray the rosary is also referred to as a *rosary*.



Sanctuary Lamp The sanctuary lamp is a wax candle housed in a red glass container near the tabernacle in a church or chapel. The candle is kept burning any time the Blessed Sacrament is present.



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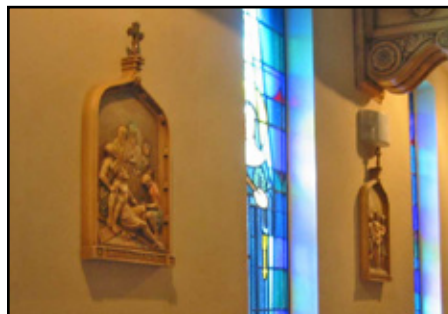
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Scapular: A scapular is made of two small pieces of cloth connected by two long cords that bear a religious image or text. To wear a scapular, the person places one cloth over the chest and the other resting on the back, with the cords running over the shoulders.

The word “scapular” can also refer to a monastic scapular—part of the garment (habit) worn by several orders of monks and nuns.



Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross is a devotion that follows Jesus on his way to Calvary through prayer and reflection. There are fourteen moments in the Lord's Passion (suffering) that are particularly remembered in the Stations of the Cross. These plaques on the church wall help us reflect on these fourteen scenes. Praying the Stations are a very popular Lenten practice.

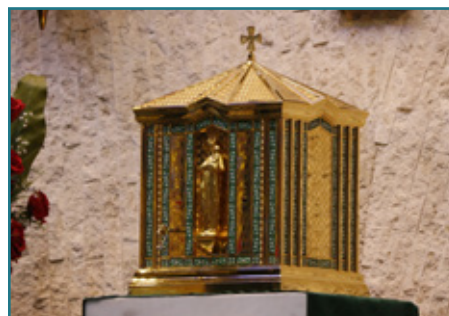


Stole: A stole is a strip of cloth about seven-and-a-half to nine feet long and three or four inches wide. The priest wears the stole over the alb with the center around the back of the neck and the two ends hanging in front.

The deacon wears the stole over his left shoulder and it drapes across his body, clasped on the right side. Stoles are often decorated in some way and are the same color as the chasuble.



Surplice: A large-sleeved, loose-fitting white garment that reaches almost to the knee. It's worn over the cassock by clergy during processions and other functions and often features white decorative lace or embroidery. Acolytes and choir members may also wear a surplice at Mass.



Tabernacle: The tabernacle is a box where the Eucharist is kept outside of Mass. The faithful can adore the Eucharist when it is in the tabernacle. The Eucharist can be taken from the tabernacle for distribution to the sick or to place in a monstrance.

The tabernacle may be located on the altar, on the back wall or in a chapel to the side of the sanctuary. Normally made of metal, the tabernacle is usually decorated with symbols associated with the Eucharist such as loaves and fish, a lamb or angels.

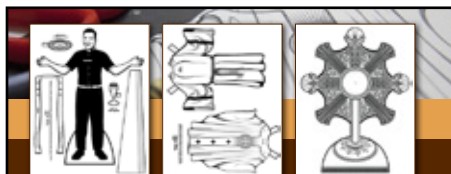
The Church requires that all tabernacles be immovable (fixed) and must have a lock.



Thurible: A metal cup or bowl with holes in the top used to burn incense during Mass. It's usually suspended on chains and swung back and forth to spread the fragrant smoke.

Incensing is sometimes used to bless and purify the altar, the ministers and the people at Mass, as well as the casket at a funeral and the monstrance during Benediction. It is traditional to swing the thurible nine times – three sets of three – stopping between each set.

There is a giant thurible weighing about 176 pounds at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostella in Spain, called the Botafumeiro. It's now only used for special occasions. The Botafumeiro is suspended from the ceiling by ropes and takes eight men in red robes called tiraboleiros (incense carriers) to get it swinging. Once it's moving, it can hit speeds of up to 42 miles per hour!



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Triregnum: The triregnum is the tiara worn by Popes and last used by Pope Paul VI. It's shaped like a beehive and decorated with precious stones and pearls. The tiara is formed by three crowns that symbolize the three powers of the Pope: father of kings, governor of the world and Vicar of Christ.

Pope Paul VI gave the tiara to the poor, so it is no longer used, although it is still depicted on the coats of arms of the Holy See and the Vatican.



Votive Candle: A votive candle, also called *prayer candle*, is a small, round candle that is usually white or yellow and about two inches tall and one and a half inches in diameter. In a church, votive candles are lit for prayer intentions and are usually placed on a rack or stand.



Zucchetto: A small skullcap worn by clergy with a knot or braid in the center. The color of a zucchetto varies with rank:

- White for the Pope,
- Red for cardinals
- Purple or violet for bishops
- Black for the superiors of monasteries (abbots)

Pope Francis' zucchetto has been blown off his head by the wind several times at his outdoor appearances. In September 2014, a zucchetto that formerly belonged to Pope Francis sold for over \$110,000 on Ebay, with profits going to charity.


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