

Liturgical Terms and Definitions

Absolution - In the sacrament of penance, the act by which a priest, having the necessary jurisdiction, remits the guilt and penalty due to sin.

Advent - A period of prayer in preparation for Christmas, including four Sundays, the first nearest the feast of St. Andrew, November 30. It is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year.



Alb - A full length white vestment worn over the clothes by priests, deacons and altar servers.

Altar - In Catholic churches the table on which the Sacrifice of the Mass is offered.

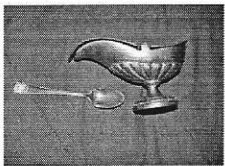
Ambo - Elevated pulpit or lectern from which the 1st and 2nd Readings and the Gospel are read. Referred to as the Liturgy of the Word.

Archbishop - A bishop who presides over one or more dioceses.



Aspersory and Aspergillum - The Aspersory is a container for holding Holy Water. The Aspergillum is a stick-shaped implement with holes in it to dip into the Aspersory and catch the Holy Water for sprinkling the people and things.

Baptismal Font - A stone, metal, or wooden receptacle for holding baptismal water used in the solemn administration of the sacrament of Baptism.



Boat - the container which holds incense.

Book of the Gospels - The book from which the Priest or Deacon reads the Gospel.

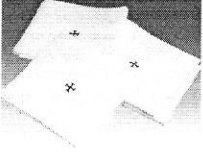
Bowl/Pitcher - used for washing the priest's hands during the Preparation of the Gifts (The Offertory)



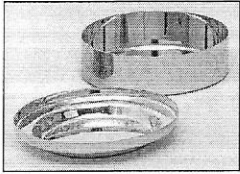
Chalice - The cup-shaped vessel or goblet used at Mass to contain the Precious Blood of Christ. For centuries it was made of precious material; if it was not of gold, the interior of the cup was gold-plated.



Chasuble - the outer garment the priest wears whose color corresponds to the liturgical season.



Corporal - A square white linen cloth on which the Host and Chalice are placed during Mass. It is also used under the monstrance at Benediction or under the Blessed Sacrament at any time. (See "How to Fold" later in this manual)



Ciborium (Ciboria) - A covered container used to hold the consecrated small Hosts.



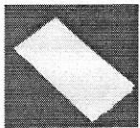
Communion Cups - small gold chalice-looking cups containing the Precious Blood of Jesus used at communion.



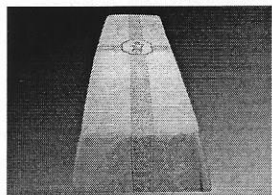
Credence Table - Small table located near the altar that holds sacred vessels and books.

Cruet - small pitcher-like container used to hold water or unconsecrated wine at Mass.

Deacon - A man specially ordained to the service of the Church's ministry. The role of deacons is to assist priests in preaching, the conferral of baptism, performance of marriage, the administration of parishes, and similar duties.



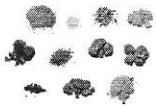
Finger Towel - small white towel used for drying the priest's hands.



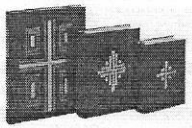
Funeral Pall - a large cloth used to cover the casket at funerals.

Holy Water - Sacramental water blessed by a priest, invoking God's blessing on all who use it.

Host - A victim of sacrifice, and therefore the consecrated Bread of the Eucharist considered as the sacrifice of the Body of Christ. The word is also used of the round wafers used for consecration.



Incense - Aromatic gum or resin in the form of powder or grains that give off a fragrant smoke when they are burned. It is used on solemn occasions



Lectionary - The book of Scripture Readings usually from which the Old and New Testament readings are read.



Lector - Person appointed to read the word of God in the liturgical assembly. Accordingly they read the lesson from Sacred Scripture, except the Gospel, in the Mass and in other sacred celebrations.

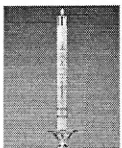
Liturgical Seasons - the various seasons of the church's year which begins the First Sunday of Advent each year. (See following pages)



Monstrance - The sacred vessel which contains the consecrated Host when exposed or carried in procession.

Narthex - The gathering area between the exterior doors of the church and the doors to the Nave (worship area).

Nave - the main body of the church reserved for worshippers, including the central and side aisles

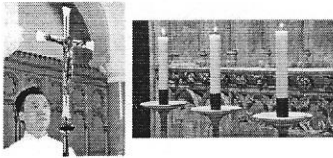


Paschal Candle - A large candle in which five grains of incense have been incased as a symbol of Christ's wounds. It is blessed on Holy Saturday in a special service and is symbolic of the Risen Savior, Light of the World. It is then used in the blessing of baptismal water and remains during the Paschal season in the sanctuary, where it is lighted during liturgical services.

Presider's Chair - The chair in which the priest or celebrant sits.

Procession during Gathering Song - Normally the procession goes in this order:

- Processional Cross (1 server)
- Processional Candles (2 servers)
- Additional servers
- Lector
- Deacon
- Priest



Processional Cross - A crucifix mounted on a staff, carried in solemn services at the head of a procession of the clergy. Processional candles are torch-like candles which flank the processional cross.



Purificator - A small piece of white linen, marked with a cross, used by the priest in the celebration of Mass. It is folded in three layers and used by the priest to purify his fingers and the chalice after Holy Communion.



Roman Missal - The book that sits on the altar containing the prayers the priest uses for Mass.



Sacramentary - often referred to as "The Book" contains the prayers used at Mass. This is the book taken up to the priest for him to read out of.

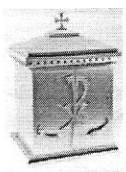
Sacristan - A person appointed for the care of the sacristy, sacred vessels, vestments, and other articles required by the priest/deacon for any liturgical function.

Sacristy - One or more rooms attached to a church, usually near the altar, where the clergy vest for Mass and where there is storage for sacred vessels, vestments, and other articles needed for liturgical use.

Sanctuary - The part of a church containing the altar.



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.



Tabernacle - A cupboard or boxlike receptacle for the exclusive reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.



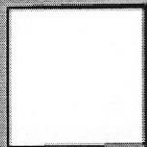
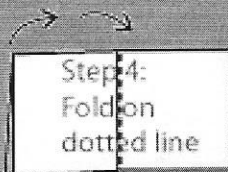
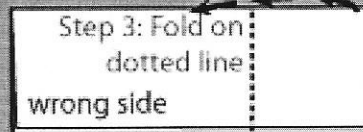
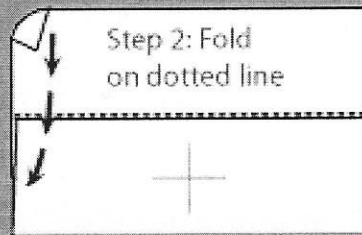
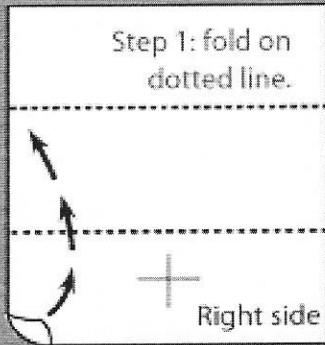
Thurible - The censer or vessel in which incense is burned at liturgical services. It consists of a cup-shaped metal body for holding charcoal and incense, with a separate lid for controlling the smoke and fire, and a chain, or chains, allowing the censer to swing safely without spilling its contents.

Vesting Room - The room where the clergy vest for Mass.

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How to fold a Corporal

Folding Instructions:



Liturgical Seasons

There are six (6) basic Liturgical Seasons:

- (1) Advent,
- (2) Christmas,
- (3) Lent,
- (4) Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday),
- (5) Easter, and
- (6) Ordinary Time.

Broken down a little further, the church calendar follows this schedule:

Advent

Christmas (birth of Christ)
Holy Family
Mary the Mother of God (New Year's Day)
Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord

Ordinary Time I

Lent
Ash Wednesday
Passion (Palm) Sunday

Easter Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.)

Easter Vigil (The Resurrection)
Easter (Celebrate the Resurrection at Masses - The greatest Feast of the year.)
Second to Sixth Sundays of Easter
Ascension
Pentecost

Ordinary Time II

Trinity Sunday
Body and Blood of Christ
Ordinary Time II (continued...)
Solemnity of Christ the King

Liturgical Colors

WHITE - signifies light, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, glory

Season of Christmas

Season of Easter

Feasts of the Lord, other than of His passion

Feasts of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs

All Saints (1 November)

Feasts of the Apostles

Nuptial Masses

Masses for the dead (Requiem Masses) when the deceased is a baptized child who died before the age of reason

Note: White is the color of Popes' non-liturgical dress. White can be replaced by Silver.

RED - signifies the Passion, blood, fire, God's Love, martyrdom

Feasts of the Lord's passion, Blood, and Cross

Feasts of the martyrs

Palm Sunday

Pentecost

Note: Red is the color of Cardinals' non-liturgical dress

GREEN - signifies the Holy Ghost, life eternal, hope

Used for Ordinary Time

Time After Epiphany

Time After Pentecost

VIOLET - signifies penance, humility, melancholy

Season of Advent

Season of Lent

Good Friday

Note: Violet is the color of Bishops' and Archbishops' non-liturgical dress.

ROSE - signifies joy

Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)

Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

GOLD - signifies joy

Gold can replace white, red, or green (but not violet)

