

What's That Called?

An altar server's guide

FURNISHINGS



ambo: the reading stand from which the scriptures are proclaimed

altar: the table at the center of the church

presider's chair: the chair in which the priest sits at Mass

processional cross: the tall cross which leads the procession in and out of church

tabernacle: the large gold container in which the Body of Christ is present

paschal candle: the large candle symbolizing Christ; used at Eastertime, baptisms, funerals

credence table: the small table in the sanctuary that holds the cups, bowls, purificators, pitcher & bowl

gifts table: the small table located in the middle of an aisle in the church that holds the bread, wine and water before they are presented at the altar

LINENS (cloths)

altar cloth: the large cloth that covers the top of the altar

corporal: smaller piece of white cloth placed on the altar before the gifts are presented

finger towel: the towel used by the priest to dry his hands

purificator: small white cloth used to wipe and cleanse the communion cups

pall: the cloth placed on the coffin at a funeral

VESSELS (containers)



bowl paten (PAT-in): the bowls (usually glass) used to distribute the Body of Christ

ciborium (si-BOR-ee-um): the covered gold container that holds the Body of Christ in the tabernacle

chalice: the more ornate cup used by the priest at the altar

communion cups: the silver metal cups used to distribute the Blood of Christ at Mass

cruet: the small pitcher which holds the water that is mixed with the wine

pitcher and bowl: used for washing the priest's hands at Mass

flagon: the large glass container filled with wine

thurible and boat (THUR-i-bul): the thurible is the metal container on a chain, which holds the lighted charcoal for incense. The boat holds the incense before it is burned.

bucket and aspergillum: container used to carry holy water; the sprinkler used to sprinkle the assembly

VESTMENTS (garments)



alb: a long white garment which covers all clothing: worn by priests, deacons, and servers

cincture (SINK-cher): the thin rope tied around the waist, over an alb

chasuble (CHAZ-uh-bl): the large outer garment worn by the priest at Mass

stole: the long thin vestment worn over both shoulders by a priest; worn over one should by a deacon

BOOKS

Book of the Gospels: the large book carried in procession at Mass—from which the gospel reading is proclaimed

Lectionary (LEK-shi-NAR-ee): the book of readings used by the lectors during Mass

Sacramentary (sac-ruh-MEN-tuh-ry): the large red prayer book used by the priest during Mass