

Typical Church Layout and Terms

The Sanctuary: The elevated portion of the church where the clergy and other ministers perform their proper functions in the worship of God. The sanctuary symbolizes heaven.

The Nave: The main body of the church where the congregation gathers.

The Sacristy: The room where the sacred vestments, vessels, and other items used in the celebration of the liturgy are stored and prepared.

The Altar: The sacred table on which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered to God; the table from which the faithful receive the Blessed Sacrament.

The Ambo: The lectern from which the readings are proclaimed.

The Presider's Chair: The chair on which the priest sits during Mass.

The Credence Table: The table on which objects are kept during the celebration of Mass.

The Tabernacle: (Latin: tabernaculum, "tent") The golden container in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. The name derives from the Old Testament tent in which God dwelt among his people.

The Ambry: The cabinet in which the three holy oils are kept.

Liturgical Colors

White: White symbolizes light, purity, innocence, joy, and glory. It is used on certain feast days and during Christmas and Easter Season. It may also be used in Masses for the dead.

Green: Green, the natural color of life, points to the hope of life eternal. It is used in Ordinary Time.

Violet: Violet symbolizes melancholy and somberness. It is used in penitential seasons (Advent and Lent), and may be used in Masses for the dead.

Red: Red connotes both fire and blood. It is used on the feasts of martyrs, on Masses of the Holy Spirit, on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, on Palm Sunday, and on similar feasts.

Rose: Rose symbolizes joy in the midst of a penitential season (rose being between violet and white). It may be worn only on two days in the year: Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent).

Gestures

Standing: Standing shows a special level of respect and readiness, e.g., during the Gospel reading. It is also the normal posture when singing or when praying in common.

Genuflection: A genuflection is made by bending the right knee to the ground. It is given to the Blessed Sacrament when entering or leaving the church or when passing in front of the tabernacle. In addition, a genuflection is customarily made when acknowledging the Incarnation or the death of Christ.

Kiss: The Book of the Gospels and the altar are customarily venerated with a kiss.




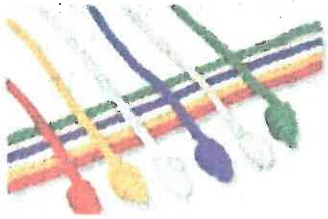
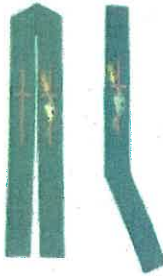





Profound bow: A profound bow is made to the altar whenever one passes in front of it during Mass and during the Creed at the words that refer directly to the Incarnation: "By the power of the Holy Spirit, he was born of the Virgin Mary and became man."

Bow of the head: A bow of the head is made during Mass at the name of Jesus, of the three Divine Persons mentioned together (e.g., "Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit"), of Mary, and of the saint in whose honor the Mass is celebrated.



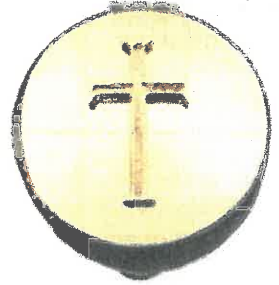



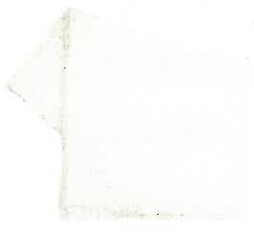




Sitting: Sitting signifies attentiveness, especially to the readings from Sacred Scripture or during the preparation of the altar.







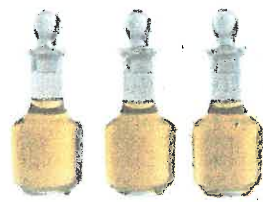


Kneeling: Kneeling signifies adoration of God and humility before him. It is the proper posture for the congregation during the Eucharistic Prayer, and after the Agnus Dei before the reception of Holy Communion.

Striking the breast: Done during the Confiteor, acknowledging our sinfulness.

<p>The Book of the Gospels: The book from which the Gospel reading is proclaimed.</p>			<p>Ordo: a liturgical aid published to foster the celebration of the liturgy. There is one on the sacristy counter</p>	
<p>The alb is a full-length white garment worn by the priest and deacon.</p>			<p>The cincture is worn around the alb if it does not fit closely to the body</p>	
<p>The stole is a long strip of fabric worn around the neck. It matches the color of the day. Priests wear the stole around the neck and over the breast. Deacons wear the stole diagonally from the left shoulder to the right side.</p>			<p>Black cassock and white surplice worn by altar servers.</p>	
<p>The chasuble is worn by the priest over his other vestments. It symbolizes the yoke of Christ and of the priesthood.</p>			<p>The dalmatic is the distinctive vestment of the deacon. Unlike the chasuble, the dalmatic has sleeves.</p>	
<p>The cope is a cape-like vestment that may be worn during processions and liturgical celebrations outside of Mass.</p>			<p>The processional cross hearkens back to the days of the Roman army when the standard-bearer would carry the insignia of a particular legion into battle. The cross is the mark of a Christian.</p>	

Liturgical Objects Used in Church

<p>The chalice: The vessel which holds the wine that becomes the Precious Blood of Christ.</p>			<p>The paten: The golden "plate" that holds the bread that becomes the Sacred Body of Christ.</p>	
<p>The ciborium: A golden vessel with a lid that is used for the distribution and reservation of Hosts.</p>			<p>The pyx: A small, closing golden vessel that is used to bring the Blessed Sacrament to those who cannot come to the church.</p>	
<p>The purificator is a small rectangular cloth used for wiping the chalice.</p>			<p>The cruets hold the wine and the water that are used at Mass.</p>	
<p>The lavabo and pitcher: used for washing the priest's hands.</p>			<p>The lavabo towel, which the priest dries his hands after washing them during the Mass.</p>	
<p>The altar cloth: A rectangular white cloth that covers the altar for the celebration of Mass.</p>			<p>The corporal is a square cloth placed on the altar beneath the chalice and paten. It is folded so as to catch any particles of the Host that may accidentally fall</p>	
<p>The altar candles: Mass must be celebrated with natural candles (more than 51% bees wax), which signify the</p>			<p>A new Paschal candle is prepared and blessed every year at the Easter Vigil. This light stands near the altar during the Easter Season and near the</p>	

presence or Christ, our light.			baptismal font during the rest of the year. It may also stand near the casket during the funeral rites.	
Bells, rung during the calling down of the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and wine			The sanctuary lamp: A candle, often red, that burns near the tabernacle when the Blessed Sacrament is present there.	
The aspersorium: The bucket used to carry holy water for sprinkling.			The aspergillum: The sprinkler for casting holy water on people, places, or objects.	
The thurible is used for carrying and burning incense.			The incense boat holds the incense before it is placed in the thurible for burning.	
Sacred Oils Oil of Chrism, Oil of the Sick, Oil of the Catechumens			The sacrarium: A drain in the sacristy that flows directly into the earth. used for respectfully disposing of holy water, blessed ashes, the water used to wash the altar clothes.	
The Roman Missal: The book containing the ceremonial instructions and prayers for the celebration of Mass			The Lectionary: The book containing the biblical readings arranged for the celebration of Mass.	