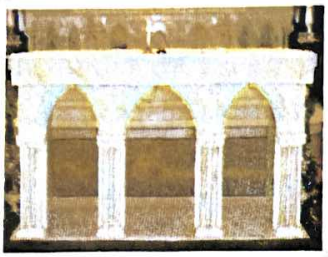
Faith Seeking Understanding

Items used at Mass & Liturgies

Objects + Vessels + Vestments +Books

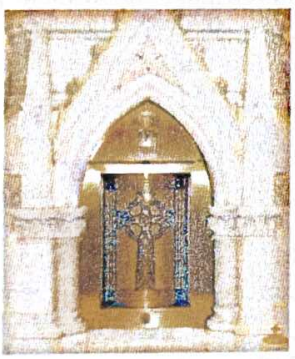
Objects within the Church



Altar
Table of the Lord where the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.



Presider's Chair.
The Chair for Priest Celebrant where Mass begins and ends, and he sits during reading of Holy Scriptures.
The Deacon would sit to the right of the Celebrant.

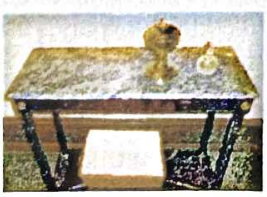


Tabernacle
The shrine where the Eucharist is kept as a place of exclusive reservation of the Blessed Sacrament.
Always genuflect before the Tabernacle because Jesus is present inside.



Paschal Candle
Blessed at the Easter Vigil. It represents the Light of Christ.

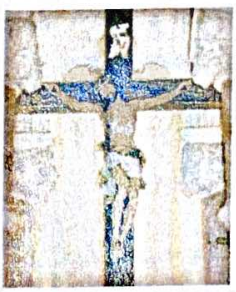
The Paschal Candle is lit from the Easter Vigil through Pentecost, and at baptisms and Funerals.



Offertory Table
Small table in the back of Church (Vestibule), where Wine and Bread (hosts) are placed before Mass to be carried to the Sanctuary during the Presentation of the Gifts.



Ambo or Pulpit
"Table of the Word" where Scriptures and Gospel are proclaimed.



Cross
Crucifix to remind us that the Mass and Jesus Death on the Cross are the same sacrifice to God the Father.



Sanctuary Lamp
Candle that burns in the Church to remind us that Jesus is present in the Tabernacle.



Baptismal Font
A place used for Baptisms. Baptism is the way we enter into the Church by being made children of God.



Credence Table
Table holding the vessels to be used during the Mass, which include, the Chalice, Patten, Communion Cups, Cruets, and Lavabo Dish.

Complied by Deacon Michael DeVivo

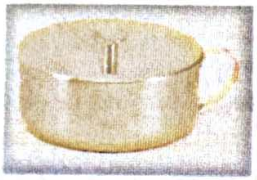
Sacred Vessels/Objects



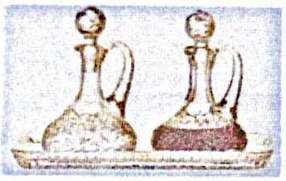
Paten
A round metal plate used by the Priest to hold the Hosts (bread) that becomes the Body of Christ.



Communion Cups
Used to give the Precious Blood of Jesus to the people at communion. They are kept on the Credence Table and brought to the Altar at the Preparation of the Altar.



Ciborium (Ciboria)
A round bowl-like vessel containing the hosts that become the Body of Christ. Used for Holy Communion and to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle.



Cruets and Tray
Cruets contain the wine and the water used during the Mass.



Thurible & Boat
The **Thurible** (Censor) holds the charcoal and incense burned at solemn occasions.

The **Boat** holds the incense to be placed in the Thurible by the Priest.



Purificator
The cloth used to wipe the edge of the chalice containing the Precious Blood and used to dry the vessels after purification.



Processional Cross & Candles
Crucifix on pole which is carried by the Cross Bearer and the Candles carried by the Candle Bearers in the opening procession. Placed in the stand in the Sanctuary during Mass and carried out by the serves in the recessional at end of Mass.



Chalice
The vessel used by the Priest to hold the wine that becomes the Blood of Christ.



PYX
A container for the Eucharistic bread, specifically, the small containers used to carry communion to the sick or Choir.



Ciborium
Vessel containing the hosts that become the Body of Christ and is placed on the Offertory Table in the Vestibule before Mass to be carried to the Sanctuary during the Presentation of the Gifts.



Lavabo Bowl & Towel
A dish 'Lavabo bowl' and the 'Finger Towel', used by the Priest to wash his hands before beginning the Consecration.



Corporal
A white linen cloth placed on top of the Altar cloth, where the vessels (Paten and Chalice) containing the bread and wine are placed. [A symbol of the Shroud that wrapped the body of Jesus in the tomb. (Shroud of Turin)]



Pall
The stiff, square, white cover placed over the Chalice to protect its contents.



Candle Lighter and Snuffer
Server's long or short handled object with extendable wax taper for lighting candles on one side and inverted cup for extinguishing candles on the opposite side.



Monstrance
The vessel used to display a large consecrated host during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
(Latin: monstrare – "to show, to point out")



Lunette (Luna)
The container with glass sides that holds a large host that is placed in a monstrance for Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
(Latin: Luna – "moon").



Aspergillum
An aspergillum is a liturgical implement used to sprinkle Holy Water.



Aspersorium
Bucket that holds Holy Water.



Ablutions Bowl
A bowl on the Credence Table used by the Ministers of Holy Communion to wash their fingers after distributing Holy Communion during the Mass.

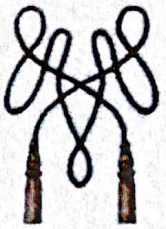


Holy Water Font
A vessel containing Holy Water used for Blessing yourself when entering the Church. Reminds us of our Baptism in the Body of Christ – The Church.

Sacred Vestments



Alb
Symbolizes: Purity – Reminder of our Baptism.
A long white robe worn by the Celebrant, Deacon, and Altar Servers.



Cincture
Symbolizes: Chastity
A long cord used for fastening the Alb at the waist and to adjust it to proper length. Usually white, may be liturgical color of the day.



Priest Stole
Symbolizes: the clerical office, immortality, and the Yoke of Christ
The stole, matching the liturgical color, is a long, scarf-like vestment worn over the Alb and under the Chasuble. It is the mark of the Office of the Priest. A priest wears it around the neck, hanging down in front.



Deacon Stole
Symbolizes: the clerical office, immortality, and the Yoke of Christ
The stole, matching the liturgical color, is a long, scarf-like vestment worn over the Alb and under the Dalmatic. It is the mark of the Office of the Deacon. A Deacon wears it over his left shoulder, fastening it at his right side.



Chasuble
Symbolizes: Charity and the Yoke of Christ.
The sleeveless outer garment, covering the Alb and stole of the priest. Its color varies according to the feast.

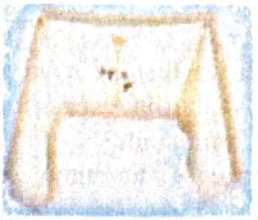


Dalmatic
Symbolizes: Charity, Justice, and the sufferings of Christ
A loose-fitting robe with open sides and wide sleeves worn by a deacon on more solemn feasts. Its color varies according to the feast.



Cope
A large cape worn by Priest in processions and other sacred actions, in keeping with the rubrics proper to each rite.

For example, Baptisms, and during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



Humeral Veil
A long cloth, usually white, which goes over the celebrant's shoulders and covers his arms. This is attached by a clasp in the front.

The veil is used to hold the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance during Benediction.

Liturgical Books



Roman Missal

Contains all the prayers and rituals said by the Priest and Deacon during Mass.



Book of the Gospels
A visible sign of Jesus Christ the Word of God. Carried in procession at the entrance of the Mass by the Deacon or Lector and placed at the center of the altar.



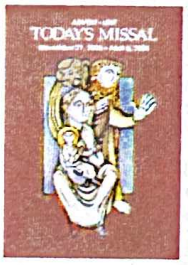
Lectionary

Contains the Sacred Scripture Readings for Mass and usually is place on the Ambo before Mass.



Presider's Book

Contains the prayers and announcements needed by the Priest when he is at the chair.



Hymnal/Missalette
Provides the congregation the parts of the mass for a specific season in the liturgical year including instructions on when to stand, sit, or kneel.

Special Places In Church

Narthex: (Sometimes called the vestibule). The area located just inside the main entrance of the church and the entrance to the body of the Church. It also provides room for book or pamphlet racks, bulletin boards, and the Holy Water Fonts.

Sacristy: Room where the sacred vessels and vestments are kept and where Priest/Deacon and Servers Vest and Prepare for Mass.

Nave – A central part of the church, where the faithful gather to worship together and the pews are located.

Sanctuary – A Sacred, consecrated area around the Altar of a church where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated; and the Altar, Ambo, Tabernacle, Credence Table , Priest, Deacon, and Server chairs are located.

Complied by Deacon Michael DeVivo