

## **Vestments**

The liturgy is a special kind of celebration in which, through the words and actions of the People of God, the Lord's presence is made real among us. ALL of the people are involved in this action. Those who have a special service in the liturgy are typically identified by the kind of clothing they wear. The vestments show what role each person has in the liturgical celebration.

**Alb** - a long, white garment worn by the ministers of the altar.

**Amice** - square white cloth sometimes used as a neckband or hood along with the alb.

**Chasuble** - large outer vestment, like a poncho, worn by Bishops and Priests at the Eucharist.

**Cincture** - The cord used as a belt around the waist.

**Cope** - large cape used by Priests or Deacons at some ceremonies.

**Dalmatic** - outer garment, like a tunic, worn by Deacons.

**Miter** - the bishop's ceremonial hat, signifying his role as teacher.

**Stole** - A long band of cloth worn by Priests and Deacons when engaged in an official duty. The stole is worn over the alb (and under the chasuble or dalmatic) as a sign that he is occupied with an official duty. **Bishops and Priests** wear the stole over both shoulders so that it hangs down in front; **Deacons** wear it over just the left shoulder, tied at the right side. When placing the Stole about his neck, in vesting for Mass, the Priest or Deacon begs God to give him on the last day the garment of immortality that was given up by our first parents (Adam and Eve).

**Zucchetto** - the bishop's small red cap.

## **Vessels and Furnishings**

**Altar** – sacred table for the celebration of the Eucharist; it is the central furnishing of the Church and is shown great reverence.

**Asperges** - the sprinkling of the people with water as a reminder of baptism. The sprinkler/bucket is the “aspergil”.

**Boat** - container for the grains of incense which always accompanies the Censer/Thurible.

**Censer (Thurible)** - charcoal pot on a chain, in which incense is burned. The minister who carries the thurible is called the “thurifer”.

**Chalice** - special cup used for consecration of wine at the Eucharist; it is always carried with great care.

**Ciborium** - the dish or cup to hold the hosts, especially those cups with lids for storing the Eucharist in the tabernacle. Here at Sacred Heart the ciborium takes the shape of a tray.

**Corporal** - large linen cloth opened on the altar only for the Eucharist; the chalice and ciboria are placed on it. It is used to collect any fragments of the Sacred Host.

**Credence Table** - table placed near the altar that holds the chalice, book, corporal and other vessels and furnishings to be used during the Mass.

**Crosier** - shepherd’s staff that the bishop carries. The bishop is appointed to be the shepherd who leads and cares for us in Jesus’ name.

**Cruet** - small pitchers for water and wine.

**Humeral Veil** - a short cape that the Presider wears around the shoulders to hold the monstrance (a vessel containing the Holy Eucharist).

**Incense** - grains of tree resins and crushed leaves which make a sweet smoke when burned; it is used as a sign of our sweet prayers rising up to God and as a mark of honor for holy things.

**Lavabo** - the washing of the Priest’s hands and the basin/pitcher used for it.

**Lectern** - reading stand for song leader or commentator.

**Lectionary** - the book of scripture readings.

**Lunette** - a small glass container that holds the Sacred Host and is put inside the monstrance.

**Monstrance** - special golden “showplace” used to hold the Sacred Host during the Eucharistic devotions.

**Pall** - stiff cloth cover sometimes used to cover the chalice (also, the “funeral pall” the large cloth placed on the casket at funerals as a reminder that the dead person has “put on Christ” on the day of baptism.)

**Paschal Candle/Easter Candle** - large candle first lighted at the Easter Vigil and used all during the Easter Season; it is also used at baptisms and at the funerals of Christians, as it represents the light of the Risen Christ.

**Presidential Chair** - the chair of the Priest or the presiding minister at the liturgy; it signifies the role of the Priest to call together and oversee the assembly of God’s people.

**Prie-dieu** - the kneeler.

**Processional Cross** - large crucifix carried at the head of most processions.

**Pulpit/Ambo** - place from which the Scriptures are proclaimed.

**Purificator** - linen cloth used to wipe the chalice.

**Pyx** - a small vessel to hold the Eucharist when a minister carries it out of the Church to people who are sick.

**Repository** - the place for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament; where the tabernacle is located.

**Roman Missal** - official book of prayers for the Priest at Mass; it has several ribbon markers and page tabs.

**Sanctuary** - the “holy place”, the area around the altar; it is also called the “presbyterium” since it is the place where the Priest and ministers sit and exercise their roles.

**Tabernacle** - the “dwelling place” for the Eucharist after the celebration of the Mass. The Sacrament is kept there to provide communion for the sick, for those who could not receive it during the Mass, and for private veneration by the people.

**Torch** - candle on a long handle, carried in procession to “light the way”.

## Offices and Ministers

The Eucharist is the celebration of all God's People in the family of the Church. Each person celebrates according to the office (or *job*) he/she has in the Church. Each role is important; each helps the Body of Christ grow healthy.

**Priest** - the formal name for his office is "presbyter", a name which means "elder". Because of his reception of the Sacrament of Holy Order, he ministers among us in the person of Christ. He is a special kind of leader among the people who has the role of presiding over the liturgy of the Church; The Priest does this as a special delegate of the Bishop. The Priest calls the people to order and directs their prayer. He is the one who speaks for the whole Church when he prays the Eucharistic Prayers. He is a sign that Jesus Christ (the one true Priest) is presiding over his people.

**Deacon** - the name Deacon means "waiter" or "one who serves". He is the chief assistant at the Eucharist and is responsible for the altar and its preparation, and for the smooth celebration of the liturgy. He directs the people in their participation. He proclaims the gospel and distributes the Eucharist. Outside of Mass he may give Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament and preside at certain sacraments and rituals (like baptism, marriage, burial, etc.) His role in the Church is one of practical service, that is why he has special things to do when the Church meets for the liturgy.

**Lector (Reader)** - the minister who reads the scripture at the liturgy. This role is very important since it is to make the scripture "come to life" for the congregation. Readers are to be good speakers and should study the scriptures very carefully so that the Church can be inspired as the lessons are read.

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** - those who help in taking communion to those who are sick or who help to distribute the Eucharist at Mass.

**Cantor** - the minister who sings the psalms and leads the congregation in song.

**Altar Server** - the minister who assists the Priest and Deacon in the liturgical celebrations, especially at the altar. The presence of the altar server means that the Priest and Deacons are free to work as their offices call them, since the servers take care of the many little duties. Since they are ministers of the altar, the Altar server are especially joined to the action of the Church in the Eucharist.

**People of God** - the congregation is not just a group of spectators; they are offering the Eucharistic liturgy together with their ministers (who are there for the sake of God's People). They hear the word of God proclaimed and offer themselves together with the Lord Jesus. They make up the Body of Christ and show their unity in their common responses, singing, and posture and love.