

# AT THE ALTAR



## CRUCIFIX & CANDLES

Items that must be at or near the altar at every Mass



## ROMAN MISSAL (SACRAMENTARY)

Book of prayers that priest uses during Mass.



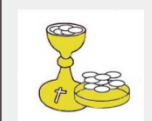
## CORPORAL

Cloth that the priest places under the chalice and ciborium during Mass



## CIBORIUM

Another cup or a plate used to hold the Body of Christ.



## CHALICE

A cup, usually made from precious metal like gold or silver, that the priest pours the wine and a little water into before it becomes the Blood of Jesus



## PURIFICATOR

A linen cloth that the priest uses to wipe the chalice after Communion



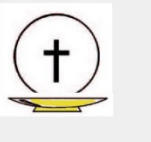
## CELEBRANT'S HOST

The celebrant often holds up a larger host during Mass and breaks it into pieces just as Jesus broke bread at the Last Supper



## PATEN

A special plate that holds the celebrant's host



## CRUETS

Small vases that hold the water and wine before they are poured into the chalice



## TABERNACLE

A case made of a solid material, where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in a covered ciborium after Mass

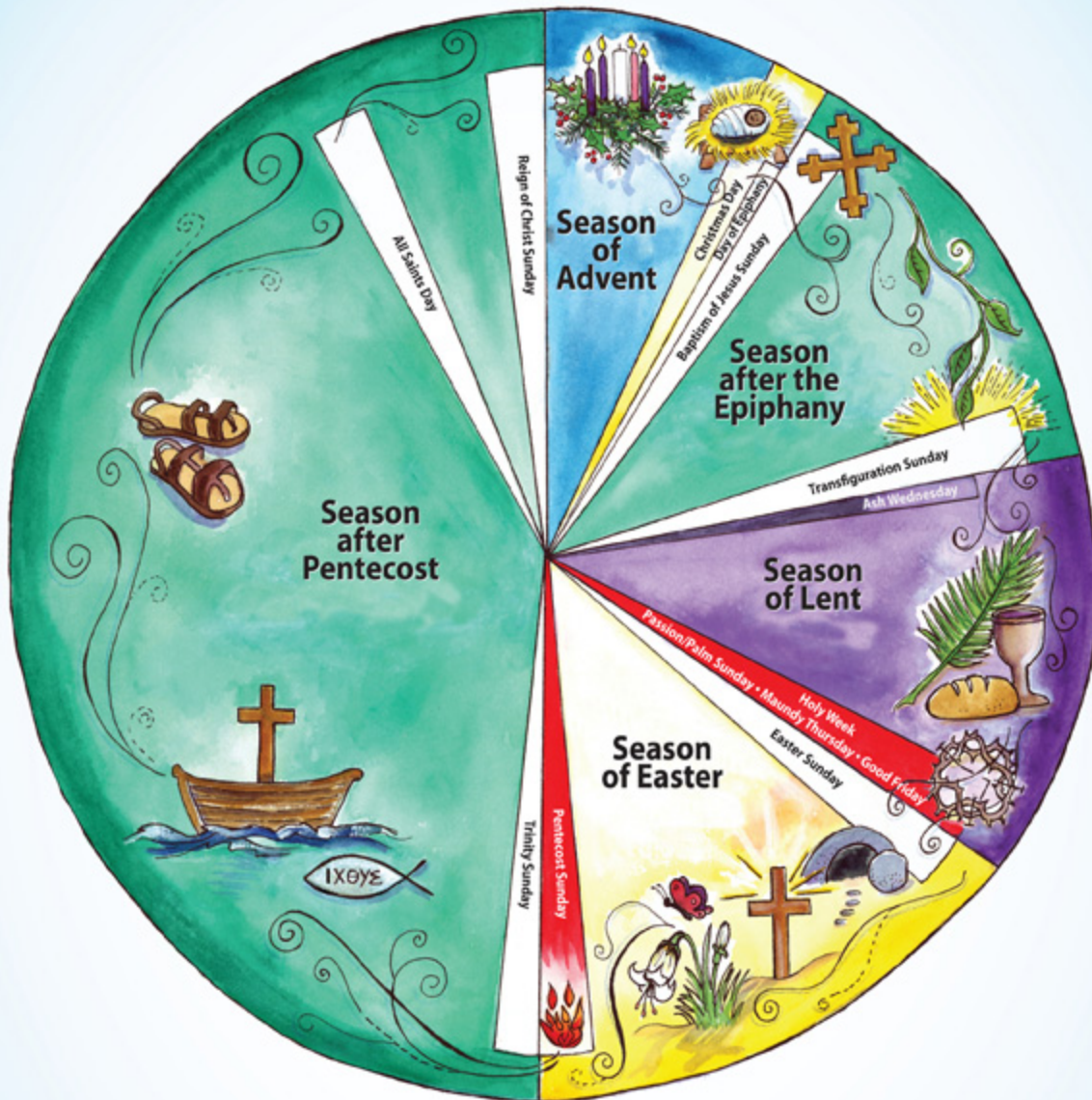


## SANCTUARY LIGHT

A candle (usually red) lit by the tabernacle when the Eucharist is present



# THE Seasons OF THE Church Year



Season	Length	Color	Some Symbols
Advent	4 weeks preceding Christmas	blue or purple	four candles, wreath
Christmas	December 25 - January 6 (Christmas Day to the Day of the Epiphany)	white or gold	manger, baby
Season after the Epiphany	January 7 - Shrove Tuesday (length varies)	green	stars, green plants
Lent	40 days and 6 Sundays preceding Easter day "The Great 50 Days" (beginning with Easter Sunday)	purple	fish, wine & bread, palm leaf
Easter		white or gold	butterfly, empty tomb
Pentecost Sunday	The last Sunday of the Season of Easter	red	dove, flames, wind
Season after Pentecost	Trinity Sunday to Reign of Christ Sunday (length varies)	green	triangles, circles, green plants

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LITURGICAL COLORS



GREEN	RED	GOLD OR WHITE	ROSE	PURPLE
<p><b>WHEN IS IT USED?</b></p> <p>Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar.</p> <p><b>SYMBOLISM</b></p> <p>Signifies hope.</p>	<p><b>WHEN IS IT USED?</b></p> <p>Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, Feasts of the Apostles and martyrs.</p> <p><b>SYMBOLISM</b></p> <p>Signifies the fire of charity and blood shed for Christ.</p>	<p><b>WHEN IS IT USED?</b></p> <p>Feasts of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Mary, and saints who were not martyred.</p> <p><b>SYMBOLISM</b></p> <p>Symbolizes glory, joy, innocence, and purity of soul.</p>	<p><b>WHEN IS IT USED?</b></p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent.</p> <p><b>SYMBOLISM</b></p> <p>Symbolizes joy and love.</p>	<p><b>WHEN IS IT USED?</b></p> <p>Advent and Lent, also in Requiem Masses.</p> <p><b>SYMBOLISM</b></p> <p>Signifies humility and penitence.</p>



## PRAYERS DURING PRIESTLY VESTING AND THE MEANING OF VESTMENTS

As the priest prepares to dress himself in the sacred garments for Mass, it has been a long-standing tradition in the Church that he recites the following prayers:

### Washing of hands

*Give virtue to my hands, O Lord, that being cleansed from all stain I might serve you with purity of mind and body.*

- 1 **AMICE** – a rectangular neck cloth which serves to protect the valuable chasuble and stole, but is used only if the alb does not cover the ordinary clothing at the neck.

### Prayer

*Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation upon my head, to repel the assaults of the devil.*

- 2 **ALB** – a long white garment worn by the priest to represent the new and immaculate vestment that has been received through baptism.

### Prayer

*Cleanse me, O Lord, and purify my heart, that washed in the Blood of the Lamb I may attain everlasting joy.*

- 3 **CINCTURE** – a cord used as a belt to tighten the alb symbolizing the virtue of chastity and continence, and is the same color as the chasuble.

### Prayer

*Gird me, O Lord, with the cincture of purity and quench in me the fire of concupiscence, that the virtue of continence and chastity may remain in me.*

- 4 **STOLE** – a long narrow band, several inches wide and about 80 inches long (and of the same color as the chasuble) which is worn as a sign that the priest is serving in his official liturgical role.

### Prayer

*Return to me, O Lord, the stole of immortality, which I have lost in the sin of my first parent; and although I, unworthy, approach Thy sacred mystery, grant to me, nevertheless, everlasting joy.*

- 5 **CHASUBLE** – the final vestment of the priest that is worn over all the others and symbolizes the virtue of charity and the yoke of unselfish love.

### Prayer

*O Lord, who hast said, My yoke is easy and My burden light; grant that I may be able so to bear it, that I may obtain Thy grace. Amen.*



Illustration by Nathan Renda