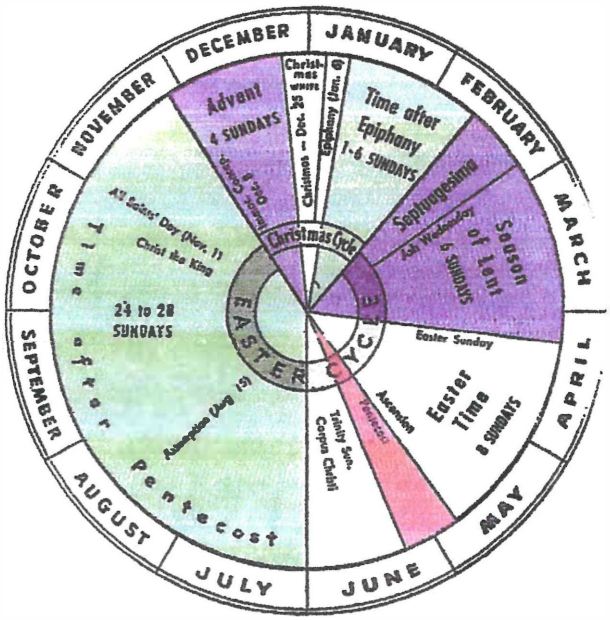
The Mass

Vestments, Materials

THE LITURGICAL YEAR



This diagram shows the divisions of the Liturgical Year into Cycles and Seasons, as well as their respective liturgical colors. As we follow this yearly round of feasts and seasons in our Missal, the Life of Jesus Christ, our Savior, unfolds in His Incarnation, Birth, Labors, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and in His unceasing Presence and Operations as the Head of the Mystical Body. Those who enter into the spirit of the different seasons of the Liturgical Year, will surely live holier and happier lives on earth and enjoy greater glory in heaven.

Liturgical Colors

It starts with purple and ends with green, and there is a white and red in between. What do the different colors used by the priest signify? As outlined by the Church, different colors represent different liturgical seasons. Since around the sixth century, the primary liturgical colors have been green, white, purple, red and black.

Green signifies Ordinary Time in the Church. It must be noted that the shades of green can vary. For instance, the green of spring is a different shade than that of November as the Church year ends.

Purple is worn during Advent and Lent, representing the penitential sense of those seasons. Similar to purple is the color rose, which is worn just two Sundays throughout the year. First is the Third Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as Gaudete Sunday. During Lent it is worn during the Fourth Sunday, otherwise known as Laetare Sunday.

White denotes times of great celebration as seen in the Christmas and Easter seasons. White vestments are also worn at baptisms, weddings, ordinations and feast days of the Lord, the Blessed Mother and saints who are not martyrs.

Red implies the blood of Christ, the Holy Spirit and the martyrs. It is put on by the priest on Pentecost and for confirmations.

Materials


AMICE
(BACK)
ALB
CINCTURE
MANIPLE
STOLE
PRIEST FULLY
VESTED
GOTHIC CHASUBLE
(BACK)
COPE WITH
HUMERAL
VEIL
SURPLICE
CASSOCK
COPE
(BACK)

Materials

Notes:

Vestments

The priest uses the amice, alb, cincture, maniple, stole and chasuble, in the celebration of the Mass.

When the priest appears before God at the altar, he is clad in suitable vestments. God Himself gave directions about the vestments of the priests in the Old Testament (Exod. 28:1-5). The chief vestments worn by Catholic priests have come down to us from the time of the Apostles.

Symbolical significances have been attached to the different vestments. The prayers said by the priest as he puts on each piece of attire show the meaning attached to them by the Church.

1) The amice is a piece of white linen cloth which covers the priest's shoulders. The vesting prayer is, "Place, O Lord, on my head the helmet of salvation, that I may overcome the assaults of the devil." When putting it on, the priest places it for a moment on his head, then lets it rest on his shoulders.

2) The alb is a white linen tunic which envelops the priest's whole body. As he puts it on, the priest says, "Purify me, O Lord, from all stain and cleanse my heart, that washed in the Blood of the Lamb, I may enjoy eternal delights."

3) The cincture or girdle is the cord which fastens the alb at the waist. The vesting prayer is, "Gird me, O Lord, with the cincture of purity, and quench in my heart the fire of concupiscence, that the virtue of continence and chastity may remain in me."

4) The maniple is a short narrow strip of cloth which hangs from the left arm. The vesting prayer is, "Let me deserve, O Lord, to bear the maniple of tears and sorrow, so that one day I may come with joy into the reward of my labors."

5) The stole is the long silk band that fits around the neck and is crossed on the breast of the priest. It is the symbol of authority in the Church, of all vestments most blessed. The vesting prayer is, "Restore to me, O Lord, the state of immortality which was lost to me by my first parents, and although unworthy to approach Thy sacred mysteries, grant me nevertheless eternal joy." As a sign of his full priestly powers the bishop does not cross the stole in front. The Pope alone has the right to wear it always.

6) The chasuble is the uppermost vestment worn by the celebrant at Mass. It hangs from the shoulders, in front and behind, down almost to the knees. The vesting prayer at Mass is, "O Lord, who has said, 'My yoke is sweet and my burden light,' grant that I may carry it so as to obtain Thy grace." The chasuble, stole, maniple, and veil for the chalice are made as a set of vestments, of the same material, color and design.

7) The biretta is a 3-ridged square cap worn by the priest when he enters the sanctuary.

Black, rarely seen, can be worn during the Office of the Dead. It may also be worn on Good Friday.

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.

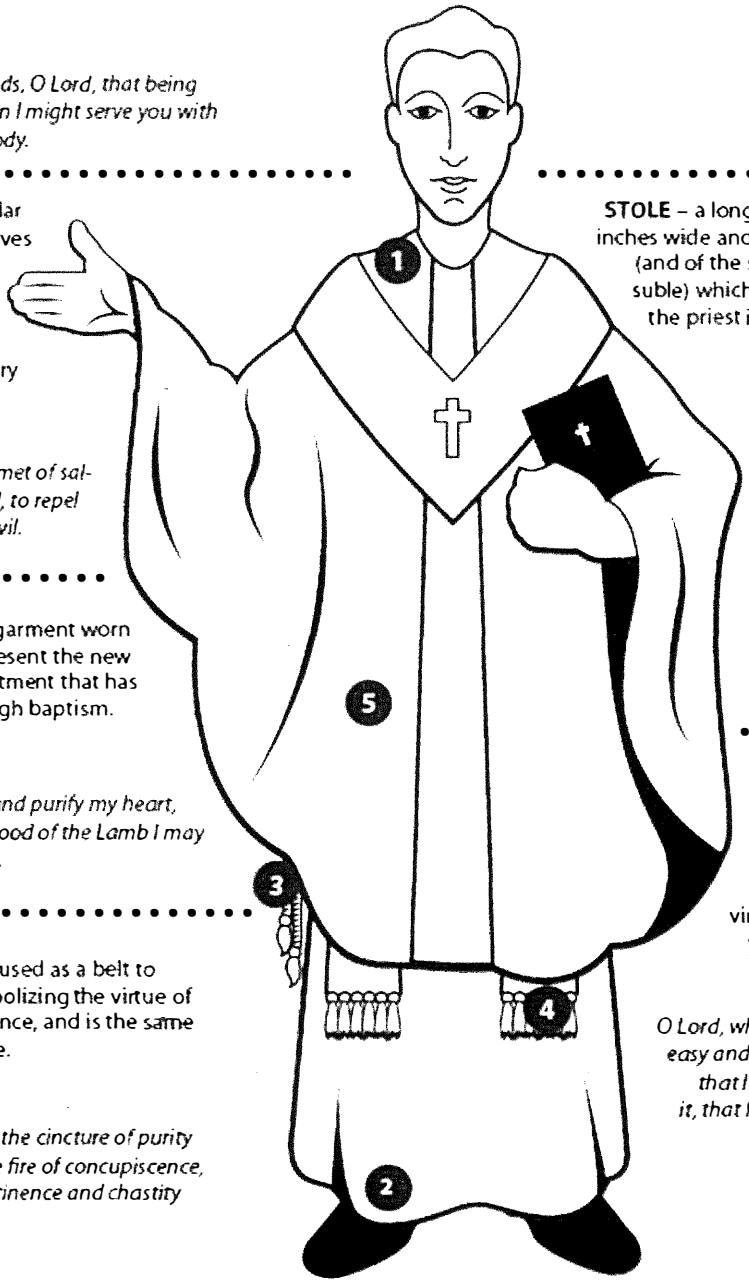
Prayer
Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation upon my head, to repel the assaults of the devil.

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 Pounds

#PRIESTS #VESTMENTS

30

THE MANITURGIUM AND FIRST STOLE GIFT: THE PIOUS TRADITION OF REWARDING PARENTS OF PRIESTS FOR THEIR MANY SACRIFICES.

PREAMBLE

For those who have attended an Ordination recently, you may have noticed that after the anointing with Chrism the newly ordained after bowing proceeds to the Sacristy, some may wonder what he goes in there to do, let us try to see this in relation to a custom though uncommon in our region of presenting the MANITURGIUM and FIRST STOLE to the Parents of the newly ordained during his Thanksgiving Mass.

ORIGIN OF THIS PRACTICE

To have a proper understanding let's look at the life of St Augustine. Before St. Augustine returned to the practice of the faith and was ordained a priest his mother shed many tears of intercession. Similarly, many mothers in today's world will make countless sacrifices so that their son can freely respond to whatever calling God has in store for him. Recognizing this reality a pious tradition has been passed on over the years that pays respect to the role a mother has in a priest's life.

THE MANITURGIUM AND FIRST STOLE GIFT

On the occasion of their First Thanksgiving Mass, it is traditional that the newly ordained priest presents a gift to his parents. To his mother, he give the Maniturgium, which was used to cleanse his hands. To his father, the priest presents his first confessional stole.

WHAT IS A MANITURGIUM?

When a priest is ordained his hands are anointed with oil by the bishop. After this occurs his hands are cleaned with a white linen towel called a maniturgium. The oil that is used on the hands of the priest is sacred, having been previously blessed by the bishop, and so the maniturgium cannot be discarded in the trash. Priests over the years decided to save these linen towels and present them to their mothers at their first Mass.

THE FIRST STOLE GIFT

More recently there has developed a tradition recognizing the role of a priest's father. It consists of the newly ordained priest handing his father a purple confessional stole after the priest hears his first confession. Sometimes the priest will actually hear the confession of his father as well, which proves to be a very humbling experience.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS TRADITION

According to an age-old tradition the mother saves the towel in a safe place until she dies. Then when her body is prepared for the funeral the maniturgium is placed within the hands of the mother.

According to this tradition He gives the Maniturgium to his Mother which was used to cleanse his hands. This means that when the newly ordained priest's mother is called home to God, she is buried holding the Maniturgium so that all in Heaven and on Earth will know that she is the mother of a priest. And on the last day when we are raised from the dead, she can present the Maniturgium to Christ the Lord and say, "My son too shared in your priesthood."

To his father, the priest presents his first confessional stole. The stole is the sign of priestly office, and the priest wears it when he engages in holy things, like celebrating the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance. It was the father of the newly ordained priest who first taught him about justice and mercy. And like the mother of the newly ordained priest, when his father dies, he is buried holding the purple stole so that all in Heaven and on Earth will know that he was the father of a priest. And on the last day when we are raised from the dead, he can present the purple stole to Christ the Lord and say, "My son too shared in your priesthood."

CONCLUSION

Both of these customs are being revived by many young priests and are a great way to honor the numerous sacrifices parents make to raise holy children. Priests aren't born out of nowhere and heavily depend on the formation they receive at home. In the end, the only sure way to increase vocations to the priesthood is to cultivate strong, holy families.

Materials

Vestments Worn Outside of Mass

Outside of Mass, the priest uses the cassock, or soutane, the cope, the surplice and the humeral veil.

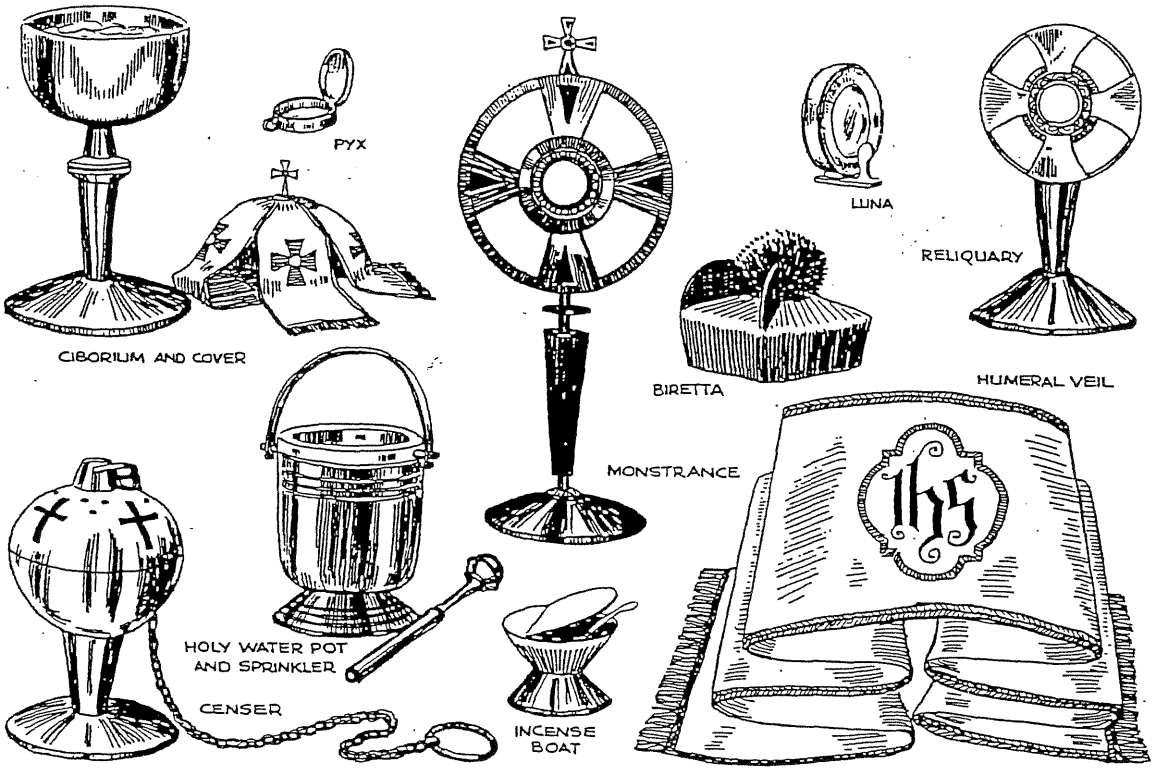
1) The cassock or soutane is the principal vestment used by ecclesiastics. It is a robe reaching down to the feet, and buttoned in front. For priests it is black, for bishops violet, for cardinals red, and for the Pope white. In some countries ecclesiastics go everywhere in their cassocks.

2) The surplice is a short alb, used by the priest outside of Mass, when he preaches, joins a procession, etc.

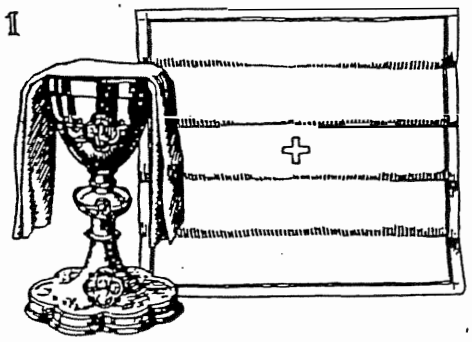
3) The cope is a mantle used for benediction, processions, and other occasions. When a priest dies, he is buried dressed in his cassock and surplice, and with the purple stole, the badge of his priesthood.

4) The humeral veil is the long silk cloth used by the priest when carrying the Blessed Sacrament and giving benediction. Some of the vestments, such as the amice, alb, surplice, and benediction veil, are always white. The stole for hearing confessions is always purple.

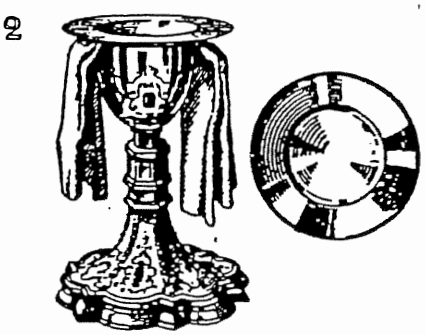
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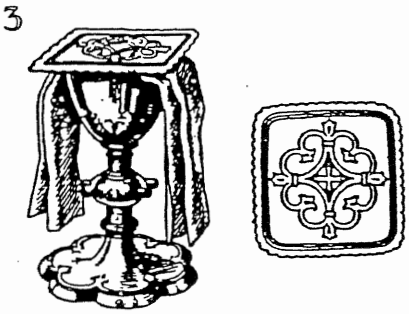

PYX
CIBORIUM AND COVER
LUNA
RELIQUARY
BIRETTA
HUMERAL VEIL
MONSTRANCE
IHS
HOLY WATER POT
AND SPRINKLER
CENSER
INCENSE
BOAT

Materials

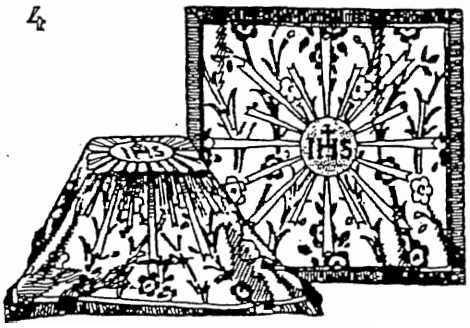


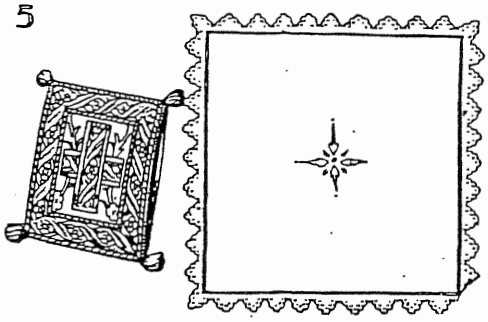
1. chalice and purificator
2. paten, with chalice



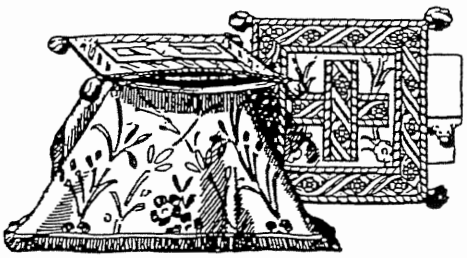


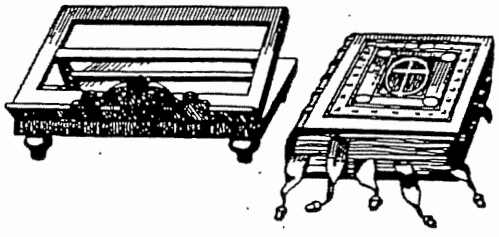
3. pall, with chalice
4. veiled chalice



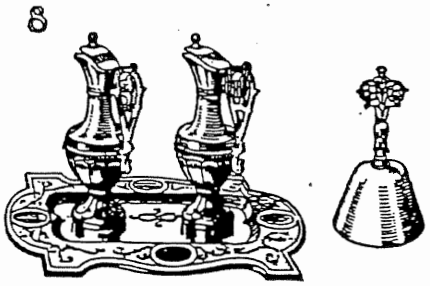


5. burse and corporal
6. veiled chalice and burse





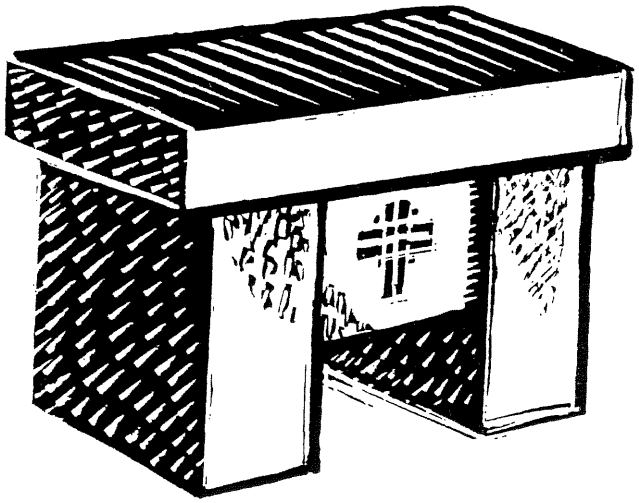
7. missal with stand
8. cruets and bell



Liturgical Sights

What are some of the things you see at Mass? What are their names and uses? On the following pages are pictures and descriptions of materials, objects, and the vestments of the Mass as well as a listing of the colors appropriate to the various seasons of the liturgical year.

Materials and Objects for Mass



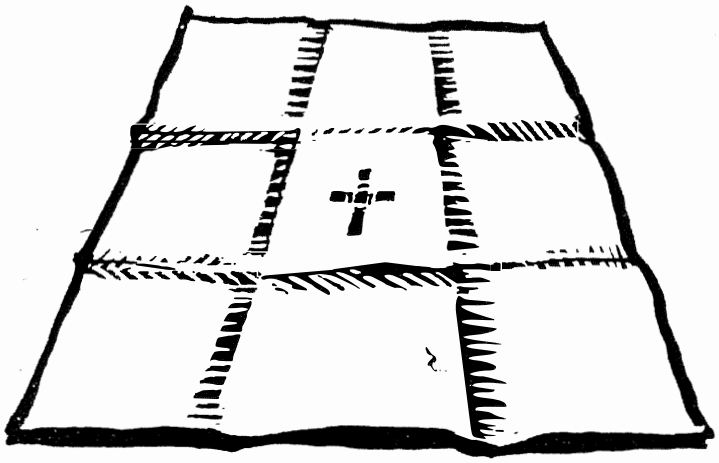
Altar: The table-like structure upon which the sacrifice of Christ and paschal banquet are enacted.



Chalice: The cup which contains the wine consecrated at Eucharist.

Ciborium: This vessel holds the consecrated hosts which are given at communion and the remaining ones reserved after communion.





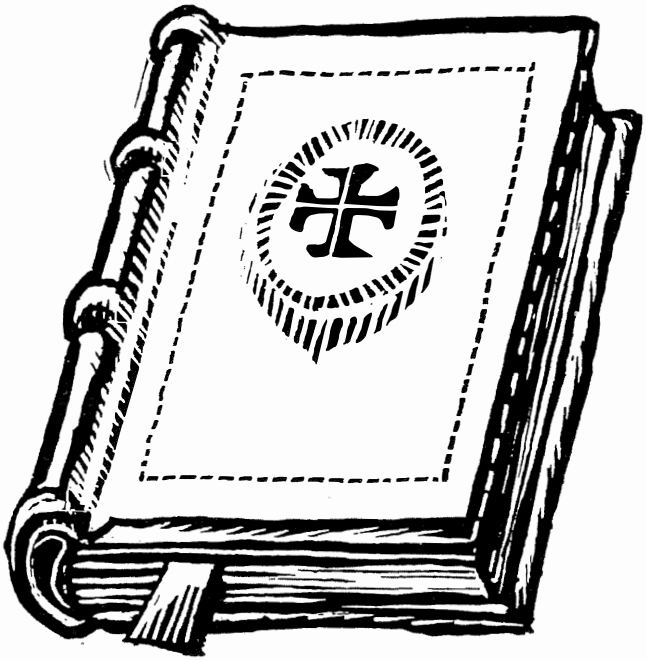
Corporal: A white cloth on which the chalice and paten are laid on the altar.



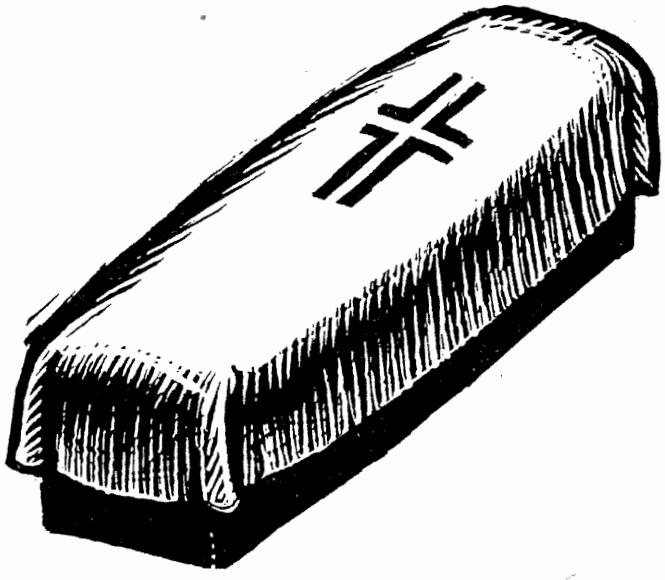
Cruets: Little pitchers containing the water and wine for Mass.



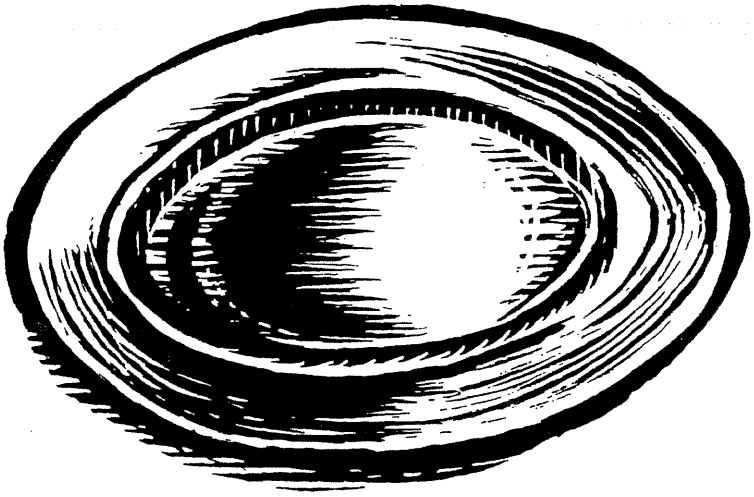
Incense: A material that produces a sweet fragrance when burnt on charcoal. The rising smoke symbolizes our prayers going to God.



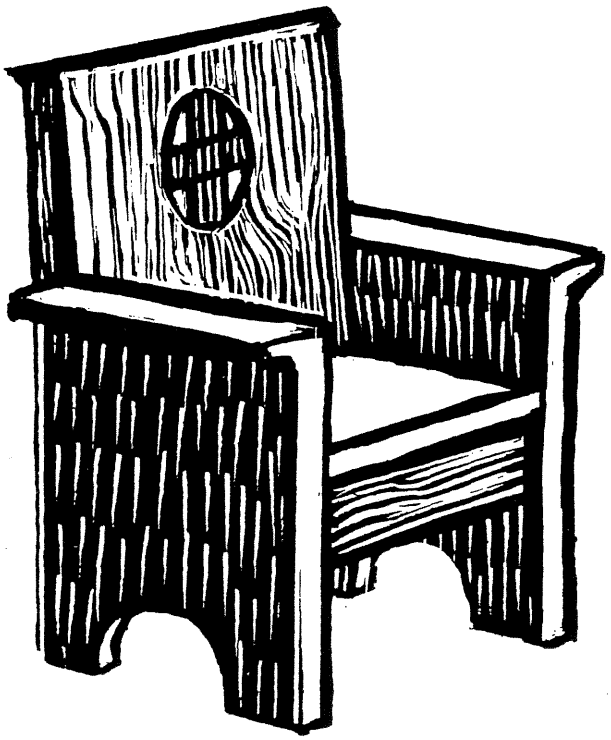
Lectionary: The book that contains the scriptural readings for the liturgical year.



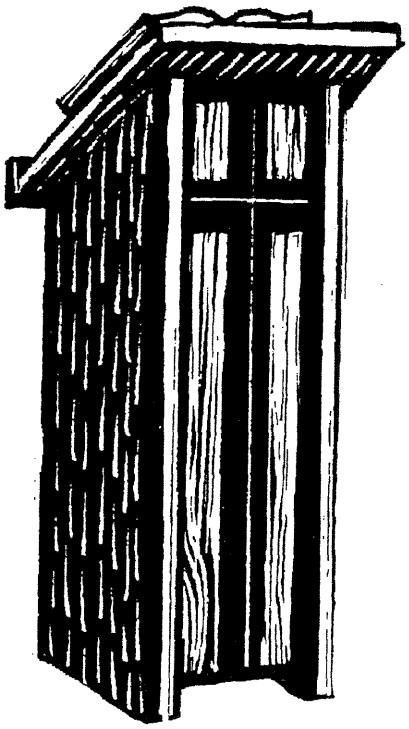
Pall: Seen at funerals, the cloth that covers the coffin. It symbolizes our baptismal robe.



Paten: The plate that holds the host(s) to be consecrated.



Presider's Chair: The place from which the priest begins and ends the Mass.

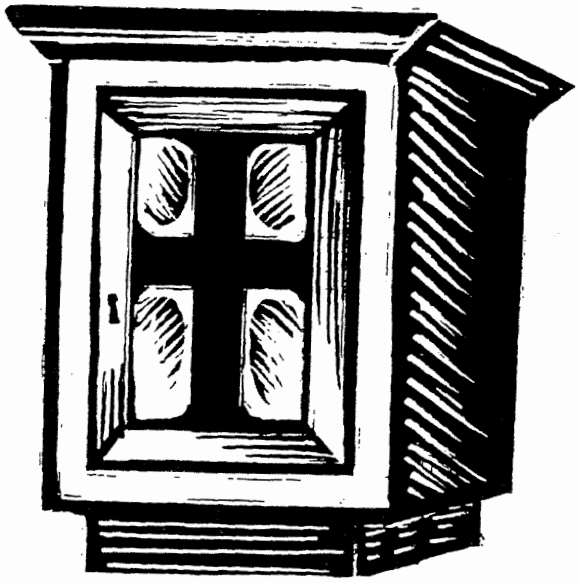


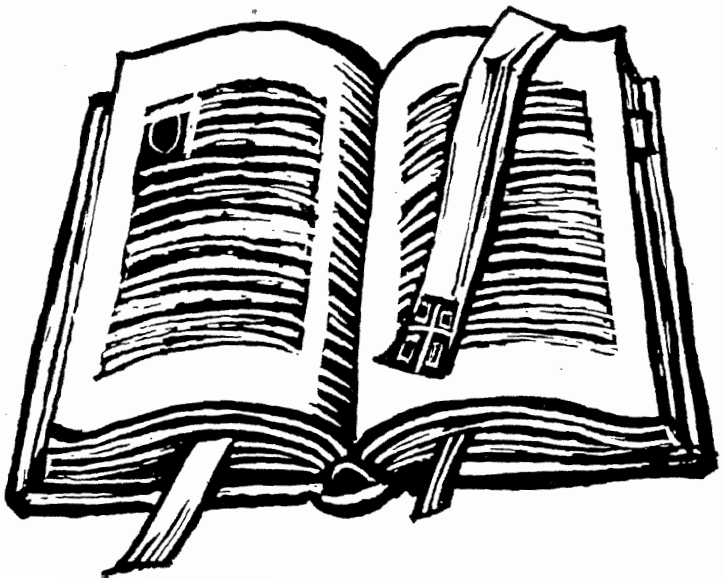
Pulpit, ~~or~~ the Lectern: A stand at which the Scriptures are proclaimed and the homily given.



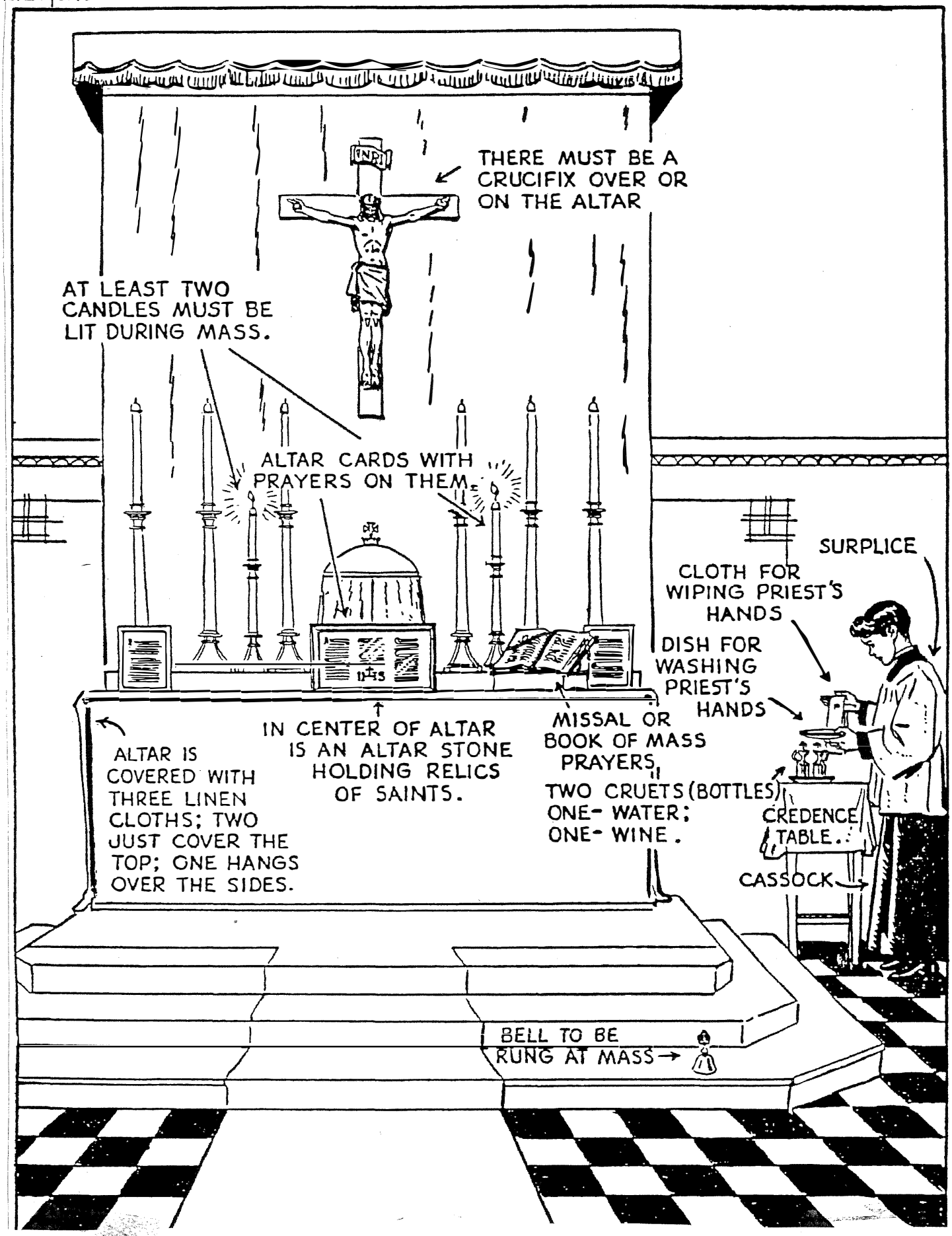
Sacristy: The room where materials and vestments for Mass are stored.

Tabernacle: The container, with doors that can be locked, where the reserved, consecrated hosts are kept for communion for the sick and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is usually situated on an altar visible to worshipers and festively ornamented.





Sacramentary: The book of prayers used by the celebrant at Mass.


INRI
THERE MUST BE A CRUCIFIX OVER OR ON THE ALTAR
AT LEAST TWO CANDLES MUST BE LIT DURING MASS.
ALTAR CARDS WITH PRAYERS ON THEM
SURPLICE
CLOTH FOR WIPING PRIEST'S HANDS
DISH FOR WASHING PRIEST'S HANDS
ALTAR IS COVERED WITH THREE LINEN CLOTHS; TWO JUST COVER THE TOP; ONE HANGS OVER THE SIDES.
IN CENTER OF ALTAR IS AN ALTAR STONE HOLDING RELICS OF SAINTS.
MISSAL OR BOOK OF MASS PRAYERS
TWO CRUETS (BOTTLES) ONE- WATER; ONE- WINE.
CREDENCE TABLE
CASSOCK
BELL TO BE RUNG AT MASS

Materials

Symbols of Christ

The following are some of the symbols of Christ:

- IHS - the first 3 letters in Greek (JES) of the name Jesus.
- XP - the first 2 letters in Greek of the name Christ.
- AW - the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (Alpha and Omega), symbolizing Christ, the beginning and end of all things.
- A lamb is a symbol of Christ, the Lamb of God.
- A fish symbolizes Christ, Savior. The 5 letters (I-CH-TH-Y-S) of the Greek word for fish stand for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."
- A cross is a symbol of Christ.