

IV. Words to Know (See *Liturgical Literacy* by Dennis Smolarski)

ACOLYTE. The server who helps the priest and/or deacon in the sanctuary by placing the proper liturgical items on the altar and bringing the priest the cruets and water (or lavabo) bowl.

ALB. A white linen vestment with close fitting sleeves, reaching nearly to the ground and secured round the waist by a cincture (or rope).

ALTAR. A wooden or stone table on which bread and wine are placed for the liturgy of the Eucharist.

AMBO. The structure at which all the Scripture readings are proclaimed during a liturgy (sometimes called a lectern).

BLESSED SACRAMENT. The name commonly used to refer to the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine after consecration.

CENSER. A vessel in which incense resins may be burned to produce sweet-smelling smoke.

CHALICE. A name for the cup used to hold the wine/Precious Blood for the Eucharist.

CIBORIUM (Plural: ciboria). The goblet-like (bowl-like) vessels used for the Eucharistic bread.

CINCTURE. A belt-like rope used to confine the loose, flowing [alb](#), and prevent it from impeding the movements of the wearer

CORPORAL. The cloth on which the vessels containing bread and wine are placed on the altar.

CREDENCE TABLE. The common name given to the side table on which the vessels and articles needed for the celebration are placed when not in use.

CRUET. A small pitcher-like vessel containing the wine or the water for the Eucharist.

EUCCHARIST. A word, derived from Greek, that means thanksgiving. The entire action of celebrating the Lord's Supper or Mass is commonly called the Eucharist, as are the consecrated elements of bread and wine.

GENUFLECTION. A gesture of respect and adoration by which a person bends the right knee to touch the ground momentarily.

GOSPEL. The "good news" of Jesus. Usually gospel refers to one of the four accounts of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

LAVABO. The name sometimes given to the washing of hands at Mass.

LECTERN. See AMBO.

LECTIONARY. The book containing all the scriptural readings proclaimed at Mass.

LECTOR. An alternate name for the reader, derived from the Latin.

LITURGY. From a Greek word meaning "work of the people." It refers to any official form of public worship.

MINISTER. Anyone who serves ("ministers to") the worshipping community by exercising some ministry.

PATEN. A name for the plate on which the Eucharistic bread is placed.

PURIFICATOR. The napkin-like cloth used to wipe the edge of the cup containing the Precious Blood, and normally used to dry the cup after its cleansing.

SACRAMENTARY. The book of prayers used by the presiding priest during the celebration of the Mass.

SACRISTY. The room that stores vestments and liturgical items used in a church, and is used for preparation.

SANCTUARY. The area of the church in which the presidential chair, altar, and ambo are located.

SANCTUARY LIGHT. The candle required to be kept burning near the tabernacle when the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.

SERVER. A common name given to those who assist the presiding priest during the celebration of Mass.

TABERNACLE. The safe-like receptacle for storing the Blessed Sacrament.

VESTIBULE. The front hallway parishioners pass through in order to enter the church proper.

VESTMENTS. The ritual, stylized clothing and symbols of office worn by various ministers at worship services.