

SERVERS GLOSSARY

alb: holy robe of baptism that ministers wear at the liturgy

altar: holy table of the Lord where the Eucharist is consecrated

ambo: holy place where God's word is spoken (Gospels, Scripture, Psalms, Homilies)

aspergillum: metal stick or branch of bush used to sprinkle holy water

boat: container that holds the grains of incense before they are burned

cantor: minister that leads the singing and sings the verses of the psalm

chalice: cup that holds the holy wine that becomes the blood of Christ

chrism: holy oil used to anoint people in baptism, confirmation and ordination

ciborium: glass or metal vessel that holds bread that becomes the body of Christ

ciboria: plural of ciborium

cincture: belt made of rope

corporal: square linen cloth placed on the altar, over the altar cloth, under the bread & wine

credence table: small table for the chalice, ciboria, water bowl, towel & sacramentary

cruet: vessel that holds water or wine

deacon: minister specifically ordained to serve the poor and his community. Often reads the gospel, gives homily and assists at the altar

evangelary: book (usually gold) that holds the gospels

font: large vessel or pool of holy water used in baptism

genuflect: sign of love for God that we show when we go down on one bended knee

Gloria: Latin name for the song sung by the angels when Jesus was born. It is sung at Mass: "Glory to God in the highest..."

gospel: Greek word meaning "good news". The Bible has four gospels, they are books written to tell the story of the life, work and teachings of Jesus.

homily: speech that the priest or deacon gives after the scripture readings. It helps us better understand the readings and how to live closer to God. It also prepares us to lift up our hearts to God in the Eucharistic prayer of the Mass.

humeral veil: short robe the minister wears around the shoulders to hold a vessel containing the Blessed Sacrament (the holy, consecrated bread of the eucharist, we know to be the Body of Christ).

icon: a holy picture of Jesus, Mary, or another saint

lavabo bowl: water bowl priest uses to wash his hands before the Eucharistic prayer

lectionary: book of scripture readings used during mass or other liturgy services

lector: minister reading the scriptures at mass or another liturgy service

liturgy: general name for all church community services such as celebrations of the eucharist, (Mass), baptism and confirmation, penance and anointing of the sick, of marriage and ordination and Morning and Evening Prayer

lunette: small glass container that holds the host and placed inside the monstrance

monstrance: large, cross-shaped vessel used to hold and show the holy host that is the body of Christ. It is used for adoration.

pall: large cloth draped over a casket like an alb; used to remind us the person was baptized

pastor: priest assigned by the bishop to take care of a particular parish

paten: plate that holds the gift of bread that becomes body of Christ

purificator: linen napkin used to wipe the cup that holds blood of Christ. (It is also used to wipe clean the ciboria that hold the body of Christ.) It is marked by a red cross, and folded in a particular way.

purify, purification: the act performed normally by a priest to clean the sacred vessels (such as chalice and ciborium) of all traces of consecrated hosts (crumbs) and wine (droplets) that do or might remain in the vessels after distributing communion. Because we know these to be the body and blood of Christ, we take great care to properly consume (eat or drink) all of them before the vessels are cleaned in the normal sense by soap and water

pyx: small vessel to hold the host or bread of the eucharist (body of Christ) when a minister carries it out of the church so as to take it to people who are sick

sacramentary: book of prayers for the Mass

sacristy: room where all the items used in the liturgy are stored and cared for prepared.

sanctuary: space around the altar and ambo. From Latin word meaning "holy place"

stole: long vestment worn around the neck by a priest or deacon

tabernacle: large cabinet displayed on a side altar of the church for storing the Blessed Sacrament (previously consecrated hosts)

thurible: pot (usually metal) that holds the hot charcoals for burning incense.