

## Immaculate Conception Parish

### The Gathering Area



*The gathering area is considered a place of hospitality; a people place for “meeting and greeting”, a place where bonds of community are made and celebrated.*



Directly off the Gathering Area, the **Angel/Cry Room** has a sound system so that families can be at mass and attend to young ones with extra energy without worry of disturbing other parishioners.

Requests for prayer are written in the **Book of Intercessions** and each day someone comes in and takes that book into the church or day chapel and prays for the intentions in the book. You need not put your name unless you wish to do so and may enter your request for prayer in the book. The book is taken up to the altar along with the bread, wine and collection at Sunday Mass.

All of the Gospel readings for Sunday Masses and for all three cycles (A, B, and C) are in the **Book of Gospels**. It is carried by the deacon or reader in the procession at the start of Mass and then the Gospel is proclaimed by the priest or deacon during mass.



Our parish Church

## The Sacristy



*The sacristy is where sacred vestments, liturgical vessels, etc. are stored and where the priests, deacon and altar servers vest for mass.*

## **Priest's Vestments**



The **alb** is a white linen vestment with close fitting sleeves, reaching nearly to the ground and secured around the waist with a **cincture**. It signifies the baptismal garment. The **cincture**, also worn by deacons and servers, are soft ropes usually in specific colors according to the color of the vestments that are worn as belts around the waist.



The **stole** is the specific mark of the office. Colors of the stole are in accord with the season of the liturgical calendar. The priest wears his stole towards the front while the deacon wears his to the side.

The **chasuble** is the outer garment of the priest. They can be made in a variety of fabrics and are in specific colors for the season of the liturgical year or the mass. Green is the color of ordinary time which is about 1/2 of the year. Purple is for the seasons of Advent and Lent. Red is the color used on Pentecost or the Holy Spirit and also for the feast of a martyr. White is the color for Christmas, Easter, and Marian feast days like the Assumption, Immaculate Conception or the day of her birth.

The **dalmatic** is the outer garment of the deacon worn over his alb and **stole**.

### Ceremonial Items

The **monstrance** contains the Eucharist during Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. The word comes from the Latin word "*monstro*" meaning "I show."

The **humeral veil** is a long white vestment, usually white, which goes over the celebrant's shoulders and covers his arms and is used to hold the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance during benediction.

The **cope** is very much like a chasuble except that the front is open and the back has a hood shaped covering.

The **processional cross** is a crucifix on a tall handle that is carried as the servers, lector, and priest enter the worship space at the beginning of mass.

### A Walk thru the Church Other Items in the Sacristy

The **aspergillum** is a liturgical instrument used to bless people and/ or objects with Holy Water. The name comes from the Latin "*aspergere*" meaning "to sprinkle."



The **candle follower** is the brass fitting at the top of the candle so that it burns evenly. The **candle lighter** is equipped with wick to light the candles and a snuffer.



The **sacrarium** is the sink in the sacristy with a drain that opens into a pipe which runs straight down to the earth. Hands and sacred vessels that have come in contact with the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist are cleansed in these special sinks.



## The Worship Space

*The Worship Space is where the congregation gathers to celebrate Mass on Sundays and Holydays and occasionally on weekdays for school Masses.*

The **holy water font** is located just inside the doors of the worship space for us to dip our fingers into water and then make the sign of the cross. It is a sacramental used to remind ourselves of our baptismal promises, however, if you are not yet baptized, doing this will mean you are baptized.

The **Stations of the Cross** are 14 pictures around the walls of the worship space that follows the crucifixion of Christ. The images are used as a form of prayer or meditation by parishioners year round but during the season of Lent, we pray the stations as a parish followed by benediction. The processional cross is used to travel from station to station during Lent.

**Statues of the Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph** and other saints have been used since the early church to remind us of those who have gone before us. They are not worshipped but honored by the emotions and faith they stir in us. We believe that they, through faith and belief in God and His Son, Jesus, are in heaven. The **votive candles** are lit and a prayer said asking for their intercession on our behalf, just as we would ask a friend or family member.

## Confessional



*The sacrament of reconciliation is celebrated in the confessional. Acting in persona Christi the priest listens to us confess our weaknesses and failing, assures us of God's love and forgiveness, then grants absolution thus reconciling us with God and the community.*



The **confessional** usually has the name of the priest above the door although when we have a visiting priest the name of our pastor or associate pastor will remain above the door. If the door is ajar or the "in use" light is not on, you may enter but if the light next to the door says "in use" wait back from the door until the person comes out of the confessional



The **confessional screen** conceals the penitent's identity from the priest and may give some of them the courage to make a full and complete confession if they are feeling particularly ashamed.

Most people including the priests, prefer that you sit face to face when receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. The anticipation is worse than the actual experience. It's easier to talk to someone face to face. After receiving absolution, you may want to spend some time doing the penance that has been given you. Prayer in the worship space and in the presence of the tabernacle often helps us forgive ourselves and accept God's forgiveness!

### The Sanctuary

*The Sanctuary is elevated and is a holy and sacred place. It is where the priest offers the Mass in persona Christi (in the person of Christ). It includes the following:*

#### **Sanctuary Crucifix**

The **crucifix** reminds us of the great love Jesus had for us and for our salvation in that he was willing to die a horrific death for us. Some of the newer or newly remodeled Catholic churches will have a different corpus on the cross. Some have Christ with one hand extended holding a dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, which he promised to his Apostles. Others have the Risen Christ with his hands extended in a welcoming manner.

#### **Tabernacle**

The **tabernacle** is the sacred receptacle for our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The extra consecrated hosts are placed in the tabernacle so that it is available to take to the sick and dying, and also for private adoration or prayer.



The **sanctuary lamp** is the red hanging candle near the tabernacle. It is always lit to indicate that the Eucharistic Lord is present in the tabernacle. The only exception is after mass on Holy Thursday, when a special reserve is made to hold the Eucharistic Lord for adoration until Good Friday services.



The **ablution cup** sits near the tabernacle for the extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to purify their fingers after ministering the Body of Christ. This small bowl is cleaned in the sacristy at the sacrarium or sacristy sink.

The **altar** is the table of the Lord where the priest prepares the sacrifice of the mass, the bread and wine to become the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

## Altar

The **corporal** is a small linen or hemp cloth that is spread over the altar cloth and must be large enough to hold the chalice, paten if used, and all the ciboriums used to hold the hosts that will be consecrated for the laity. It also must be blessed before being used.

The **pall** is a small hard linen square used to cover the chalice. It may consist of two pieces of linen with cardboard in between for stiffness. The top piece of linen may be decorative but the bottom piece that touches the chalice cannot and must be white. It was used to keep stray items like bugs out of the chalice especially after it has been consecrated.

The **chalice** is the cup containing the wine that is consecrated to become the blood of Christ. This item is also blessed before it is used in the celebration of the Eucharist. When a priest is ordained his chalice is blessed by the bishop at his ordination. Usually made of gold but they can also be other metals such as silver or pewter and sometimes they are glass. They cannot be porous as the consecrated wine could be absorbed into them rather than consumed by the congregation.

The **altar cloth** is made of white linen or hemp and must be blessed before it is used. Other altar clothes that are larger and sometimes are more decorative in the color of the season are placed over the altar but the top cloth is white.

The **sacramentary** is the book that contains the prayers of the mass. It is the book that is used by every Catholic Church worldwide so that every mass that you attend on any Sunday will have basically the same prayers although there are options as to what Eucharistic Prayer to use.



## Credence Table

The **credence table** is the small table at the back side of the sanctuary where items that will be used during mass are placed before mass begins.



The **pyx** is a small gold box with a hinge that consecrated hosts are placed in to be taken to the sick, homebound, or dying. When the pyx is in use, it should be held in a breast pocket, not just dropped in a purse or briefcase. Some people who have allergies to wheat will bring their personal pyx to mass and place it on the credence table with a gluten free host inside for the priest to consecrate.



The **purificator** is the linen cloth used to wipe the edge of the chalice after each communicant receives the Precious Blood. It is also used when the chalices are cleaned at the sacarium after communion. The

purificators are hand-washed with the water being poured directly into the ground as they may have some of the Precious Blood absorbed into them.

The **communion cups or chalices** are the cups used by extraordinary ministers of the Precious Blood. They are kept on the credence table until the altar is set up for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The **cruet** contains water that will be used with the **lavabo and lavabo towel** for the priest to wash his hands after gifts of bread, wine, and contributions are brought forward to begin the Liturgy of the Eucharist prayers. This custom comes from the early church when people brought offerings of live stock and food rather than the simple envelopes and so often the priest would need to clean the dirt off of his hands. Now it is more symbolic.

The **flagon** and **ciboriums** are the vessels brought forward at the offertory portion of mass with the flagon holding the unconsecrated wine and the ciboriums, gold, silver, or pewter bowls, hold at this point the unconsecrated hosts. Before mass there may be a spare empty ciborium on the credence table. Once the flagon is emptied of the wine it is placed on the credence table but the ciboriums containing the hosts to be consecrated are placed on the altar.



### Incense

The **censer** is the gold incense burner with a chain attached. Before mass or benediction a piece of special charcoal is ignited so that the incense can be sprinkled on it at specific times to offer the altar, the Book of Gospels, the bread and wine, and the people up to God during mass or to offer the host in the monstrance during benediction. The chain allows for it to be carried and swung to distribute the incense about the table.



The **censer boat** contains the incense to be used during the mass or benediction. The **censer stand**



holds the censer when not in use.

### Other Items

The **altar candles** were originally used for the light that they gave, but are now more the light of Christ. The **Paschal or Easter candle** is blessed at the Easter Vigil and lit from the Easter fire. It is then lit at every celebration of Sunday mass until Pentecost. After that it is lit for liturgies when a baptism will be take place or at a funeral mass or service. Small candles are given to the congregation at certain times of the year when we're entering the darkened church. We use these during the Christmas novena and at the Easter Vigil.

The **ambo** is the podium where the first and second readings as well as the responsorial psalm are proclaimed from the Lectionary by the reader and cantor. The priest or deacon then carries the Book of Gospel from its place on the altar to the ambo to proclaim the Gospel. After the Gospel the priest can give his homily from the ambo or stand in front of the altar. The prayers of the faithful or intercessions are also read from the ambo.

The **presider's chair** is the larger chair at the altar for the priest who is celebrating or presiding over mass. If there are other priests concelebrating they sit in the chairs without arms like the servers sit in.