

ALTAR SERVER TERMS TO KNOW

Ambo: Place from where the Word of God is read and homilies are given.

Ambry: Special boxes on the wall where the sacred oils are kept.

Boat: Holds the incense.

Censer (Thurible): Metal container that holds the hot charcoal for the incense.

Chalice: Cup used to consecrate the wine and distribute the Precious Blood.

Ciborium: Cup or dish used to hold the Eucharist (hosts).

Cincture: Rope worn over an alb, which is tied around the waist .

Credence Table: A table in the sanctuary where many objects used for Mass are placed.

Cruet: Bottle-like container that holds water or wine.

Finger Towel/Bowl: Used by priest to wash his hands during Mass.

Incense: A mixture of leaves, bark and other natural materials which gives off sweet smelling smoke when burned. This smoke rises and represents our prayers to God.

Lectern: The place from where the commentator reads and musicians sing.

Lectionary: Large book containing the Scripture readings read during Mass.

Missal: Book that contains prayers and instructions for Mass used by the priest.

Pascal Candle: Large candle in a tall holder which symbolizes the Light of Christ. It is blessed at the Easter Vigil. It remains in the sanctuary during the Easter season and then is used at baptisms and funerals the rest of the year.

Paten: Round metal plate which holds the hosts.

Purificator: Small white cloth used to wipe the chalice and paten after Communion or after a person receives the Precious Blood from the chalice. Has a cross on it.

Sacristy: The room where the celebrant and altar servers prepare for Mass. Vestments and other objects used for Mass are kept here.

Sanctuary: Sacred area around the altar.

Tabernacle: Where the Eucharist is kept.