

## **LITURGICAL TERMS**

### **Names of People, Places and Things**

**Alb ...** The white robe usually worn by the priest, the deacon and the server. The alb represents our baptismal garment.

**Altar ...** The table for Eucharist. The altar is the table of our community meal and it also represents Christ. Our altar is marble and has the bones of the martyrs St. Timothy, St. Irenaeus and St. Aurelia placed inside it according to ancient custom.

**Altar Server ...** A young person or adult who sets and clears the altar for the celebration of Eucharist and who carries liturgical objects during processions and rites.

**Ambo ...** The table or stand for the book of readings and from where the lector proclaims the readings and the priest or deacon proclaims the gospel.

**Ambry ...** The cabinet in which the three holy oils are kept. Our cabinet is located on the wall near the font.

**Boat ...** The small container, either glass or metal, covered or uncovered, that holds the incense.

**Book of Intentions ...** The special book in which members of the parish write down the names of people they love and who are in need of our prayers or whom we remember and pray for because they have died. It is kept on the cabinet in the gathering space.

**Bread Plate ...** A flat or nearly flat plate that is used by the Eucharistic Ministers to distribute the Body of Christ, during communion.

**Candle Lighter and Snuffer ...** Long metal tube which holds a wax taper used for lighting candles. Some candle lighters also have a bell-shaped portion used to cover a candle flame and extinguish it.

**Cantor ...** The song leader and one who sings the psalm.

**Chalice ...** The wine glass or goblet used on the altar by the priest during the Eucharist, to contain the Blood of Christ. It is made of precious metal [pewter, silver or gold].

**Chasuble ...** A poncho worn over the alb by the priest. They are colored according to the liturgical season or feast.

**Ciborium ...** A special covered bowl or chalice for keeping ["reserving"] the Body of Christ.

**Cincture ...** The rope belt worn with the alb and used by the priest, the deacon and the altar server. Servers' cinctures are colored according to the liturgical seasons and feasts.

**Corporal ...** The white linen square that is spread out on the altar over the place on which the Blessed Sacrament is to be placed.

## **LITURGICAL TERMS**

### **Names of People, Places and Things**

**Credence Table ...** The table on which are placed the cups and purificators, the chalice, the extra bread plates and the cruet of water, all needed for celebrating the Eucharist. Our credence table is located at the base of the platform near the font.

**Cruet ...** A small glass pitcher that holds the water which is mixed with the wine when the gifts are prepared. This water is also used by the priest for hand washing at the Preparation of the Gifts.

**Deacon ...** A man who has been ordained to preach the gospel and to care for those in any need. At mass the deacon proclaims the gospel, preaches, leads the intercessions, assists the priest at the altar and distributes communion. You can recognize the deacon at mass by the way he wears his stole over his left shoulder.

**Easter Candle ...** The very large candle (decorated with the cross, the year and incense nails) that stands on the edge of the font. It represents the Light of Christ. It is blessed at the Easter Vigil and burns all through the Easter season, all through November, and at all baptisms, confirmations and funerals. The Easter candle is also called the Paschal Candle.

**Eucharistic Minister ...** A parish member who distributes the Body or the Blood of Christ during communion. The proper title of this ministry is "Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion".

**Font ...** The pool of water in which people are baptized. In our font, adults and children are baptized in the large, rectangular pool [lower font] and infants are baptized in the smaller, round pool [upper font].

**Gifts Table ...** The table on which are placed the pitcher of wine and the plate of bread before mass. These gifts are brought to the altar at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Our gifts table is a small marble table located in the Ashman Street vestibule.

**Incense ...** Dried sap from trees or flowering plants, that melts when placed on burning charcoal making smoke with a fragrance. The best known varieties of incense are frankincense and myrrh.

**Lectionary ...** The book which contains the readings from sacred scripture for every Sunday and feast day. It is made beautifully because it represents the Word of God who is Jesus Christ.

**Lector ...** A parish member who has a special love of the scriptures and has prepared to proclaim the first and second readings at mass.

# LITURGICAL TERMS

## Names of People, Places and Things

**Liturgical Colors ...** Colors used during the various seasons of the liturgical year. Priest's vestments, the altar cloth and the cinctures (worn by altar servers) match the colors of the liturgical year.

- Deep blue, violet or gray ... Advent
- Purple ... Lent
- White ... Christmas, Easter, Feasts such as Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, Christ the King
- Red ... Passion Sunday; Good Friday, Pentecost, feasts of martyrs
- Green ... Ordinary Time [all other days]

**Minister of Hospitality ...** A parish member who greets people as they arrive for mass, ushers processions, is responsible for the collection and organizes the gift bearers.

**Oil ...** There are three holy oils which we use for anointing. The oils are blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week and stored in the ambry.

- Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint with strength those preparing for baptism. At Blessed Sacrament, it is stored in the vessel with the purple handles.
- Oil of the Sick is used to anoint with healing and forgiveness those who are seriously ill. At Blessed Sacrament, it is stored in the vessel with the green handles.
- Chrism, oil mixed with perfume (balsam), is used to anoint with the Holy Spirit at baptism, confirmation and ordination. Chrism is also used to anoint the altar and the walls of a new church. At Blessed Sacrament, it is stored in the vessel with the gold handles.

**Pitcher ...** The large glass vessel that holds the wine, which is brought forth as our gifts during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**Presider ...** The priest who leads the community in the ritual and prayer of the liturgy. He is ordained to preside at the Eucharist and other sacraments [except ordination], to be the spiritual leader of the community and to be for us a sign of the presence of Jesus. In the liturgy, he represents all of us.

**Presider's Book ...** The loose-leaf binder that contains the Order of Worship for the liturgy. These rites and prayers are taken from the sacramentary and other official ritual books of the Church.

**Presider's Chair ...** The chair where the presider sits during the liturgy. This chair is a reminder of the person who is ordained to lead our community in worship, including Eucharist. It should only be used by an ordained priest.

**ProceSSIONAL Candles ...** The candles carried by the servers in procession into or out of church. They are placed near the ambo to honor the Word of God, the sacred scriptures contained in the lectionary.

## **LITURGICAL TERMS**

### **Names of People, Places and Things**

**Purificator ...** A small cloth napkin used to wipe the edge of the chalice or cup as the Blood of Christ is served during communion.

**Pyx ...** A small metal container with a hinged lid for carrying the Body of Christ to those who are in the hospital or homebound.

**Sacramentary ...** The book which contains the prayers and rituals for our liturgies. It is also known as the Roman Missal. There is a lengthy instruction within this Roman Missal, known as the General Instruction to the Roman Missal (GIRM) that provides the instructions for preparing and performing our liturgies.

**Sacrarium ...** The covered sink in the Middle Sacristy that is used to dispose of the wash water in case of slippage of the Blood of Christ. This special sink is plumbed so that it drains directly in the earth (and not into any sanitary sewer).

**Sacristan ...** The person responsible for putting out everything needed to celebrate mass. This person is also a resource for the other liturgical ministers.

**Sacristy ...** The three rooms behind the chapel on the parking lot side of the church where priests, servers, sacristans, music ministers and other liturgical ministers get ready for mass and clean up after mass. Most of the things we use for liturgy are stored in the sacristy.

**Sprinkler ...** An object that is used to sprinkle people and things with holy water. It may be a branch or a metal hollow tube. In our parish we use a large whisk broom.

**Stole ...** The long "scarf" worn by the priest or deacon. The stole of the priest is worn around the neck and hangs loose in the front. The stole of the deacon is worn over the left shoulder and is fastened on the right side. Stoles are also in the colors of the seasons. The stole is a sign of office.

**Tabernacle ...** The large container where the Body of Christ [Blessed Sacrament] is kept ["reserved"]. We reserve the Blessed Sacrament so that those who are sick or dying can have communion. And because we reserve the Blessed Sacrament, which is the presence of Christ, we also may pray and worship before the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Thurible ...** The special bowl or vessel in which incense is burned on charcoal. The silver thurible has a chain to make it easy to honor the altar, the lectionary, the people or the casket with incense.

**Vestments ...** Liturgical garments which include the alb, chasuble and stole.