

## Altar Server's Glossary of Terms

**Altar.** The table in the sanctuary at which the bread and wine are prepared and transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Ambo / Pulpit.** The lectern at which the Scripture readings are proclaimed by a lector, deacon, or priest.

**Ambry.** A cabinet which holds the holy oils for Baptism, Confirmation, and the Anointing of the Sick, etc.; usually next to the baptismal font.

**Aspergillum / Sprinkler.** The "wand" which is used to sprinkle people with holy water.

**Baptismal Font.** A stand with a basin or pool containing water in the area of church where Baptism takes place.

**Book of Gospels.** The book which contains the Gospel readings. It is usually carried by the Deacon in procession and placed on the altar.

**Chalice.** The cup used by the priest which contains the wine / blood of Christ. Chalices can be made of metal, wood, or ceramic.

**Ciborium.** The bowl which holds the hosts and is stored (when full with consecrated hosts) in the tabernacle. The ciborium can be made of metal, wood, ceramic, or other materials. *Ciboria* is the plural form of ciborium.

**Communion Cups.** Goblets used for the distribution of the Precious Blood.

**Corporal.** The large, square white cloth which is placed on the altar underneath the chalice and paten.

**Credence Table.** The table on which are placed the cruets, chalice, lavabo bowl, Communion Cups, etc.

**Cruets.** The glass containers which hold wine and water. At Sunday liturgies a large pitcher or decanter is used for the wine.

**Incense Boat.** The small brass bowl that holds the incense.

**Lavabo Bowl.** The dish or bowl in which the priest washes his hands during Mass.

**Lectionary.** The book which contains the Scripture readings.

**Lector.** A person who reads the first and second reading during Mass.

**Minister of Communion.** A person who helps distribute the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Paschal Candle.** The tall candle which is blessed and used during the Easter season, baptisms, and funerals.

**Paten.** The plate that holds the large host.

**Presider's Chair (Celebrant's Chair).** The chair in which the priest sits.

**Sanctuary.** The area of church which contains the altar, ambo, and presider's chair.

**Processional Cross / Crucifix.** The cross / crucifix carried in processions.

**Purificator.** The folded, narrow cloth that is used to wipe the rim of the Communion Cups as people drink from it.

**Pyx.** The small metal container which is used to hold consecrated host(s) when visiting the sick or homebound.

**Sacramentary.** The book that contains the various prayers of the Mass. We use a small Sacramentary at the Presider's chair and the large Sacramentary at the altar.

**Sacristan.** The person whose ministry is the care of the sacristy, sanctuary, vestments, sacred vessels, etc.

**Tabernacle.** The large metal or wood container in the church which holds the consecrated hosts. A Sanctuary Lamp (candle) is left burning at all times by the tabernacle.

**Thurible / Censer.** The metal container hung by a chain that holds charcoal and is used to burn incense.

**Thurifer.** The person who carries the thurible and incense boat.