

# What's That Called?

*An altar server's guide*

## FURNISHINGS



**ambo:** the reading stand from which the scriptures are proclaimed

**altar:** the table at the center of the church

**presider's chair:** the chair in which the priest sits at Mass

**processional cross:** the tall cross which leads the procession in and out of church

**tabernacle:** the large gold container in which the Body of Christ is present

**paschal candle:** the large candle symbolizing Christ; used at Eastertime, baptisms, funerals

**credence table:** the small table in the sanctuary that holds the cups, bowls, purificators, pitcher & bowl

**gifts table:** the small table located in the middle of an aisle in the church that holds the bread, wine and water before they are presented at the altar

## LINENS (cloths)

**altar cloth:** the large cloth that covers the top of the altar

**corporal:** smaller piece of white cloth placed on the altar before the gifts are presented

**finger towel:** the towel used by the priest to dry his hands

**purificator:** small white cloth used to wipe and cleanse the communion cups

**pall:** the cloth placed on the coffin at a funeral

## VESSELS (containers)



**bowl paten (PAT-in):** the bowls (usually glass) used to distribute the Body of Christ

**ciborium (si-BOR-ee-um):** the covered gold container that holds the Body of Christ in the tabernacle

**chalice:** the more ornate cup used by the priest at the altar

**communion cups:** the silver metal cups used to distribute the Blood of Christ at Mass

**cruet:** the small pitcher which holds the water that is mixed with the wine

**pitcher and bowl:** used for washing the priest's hands at Mass

**flagon:** the large glass container filled with wine

**thurible and boat (THUR-i-bul):** the thurible is the metal container on a chain, which holds the lighted charcoal for incense. The boat holds the incense before it is burned.

**bucket and aspergillum:** container used to carry holy water; the sprinkler used to sprinkle the assembly

## VESTMENTS (garments)



**alb:** a long white garment which covers all clothing: worn by priests, deacons, and servers

**cincture (SINK-cher):** the thin rope tied around the waist, over an alb

**chasuble (CHAZ-uh-bl):** the large outer garment worn by the priest at Mass

**stole:** the long thin vestment worn over both shoulders by a priest; worn over one should by a deacon

## BOOKS

**Book of the Gospels:** the large book carried in procession at Mass—from which the gospel reading is proclaimed

**Lectionary (LEK-shi-NAR-ee):** the book of readings used by the lectors during Mass

**Sacramentary (sac-ruh-MEN-tuh-ry):** the large red prayer book used by the priest during Mass