

# *A Glossary for Liturgy*



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**Advent:** The first season of the liturgical year, beginning four Sundays before Christmas and ending after Mid-afternoon Prayer on Christmas Eve. The name means “coming.” During Advent we wait joyfully for the Second Coming of the Lord at the end of time and also to his birth at Christmas.

**Alb:** From the Latin *albus* (white), a long white linen gown-like garment worn under other vestments, and common to all liturgical ministers (priests, deacons, instituted ministers of any rank, and lay ministers) and fastened at the waist by a cincture. The alb is white because it is a reminder of the white garment that clothes the newly baptized. Its use goes back to the sixth century... A common vestment that may be worn by any of the baptized when they exercise any liturgical ministries.

**Altar:** The altar is one of the primary symbols of Christ. It is “the place of sacrifice and the table around which Christ gathers the community to nourish them.” The principal focus of the sanctuary, it is a table-like piece of furniture where the Eucharistic Prayer is prayed and on which the bread, wine, vessels, and books necessary for the rite are placed. It may be wood or stone and is usually fixed in its place... It represents Christ.

**Altar Cloth:** A long table covering of dignified white material that should be placed on the altar out of reverence for the celebration of Mass.

**Ambo:** A stationary reading stand in the sanctuary, usually of dignified proportions, from where the word of God is proclaimed. Its use is reserved for scriptural readings, the Responsorial Psalm, and Easter Proclamation. It may also be used for the homily and the Prayer of the Faithful... This is the table of God’s word.

**Ambry:** A niche or cupboard in a church which houses the sacramental oils: Oil of Catechumens, Oil of the Sick, Sacred Chrism. In many churches, this is located in the baptistry.

**Amice:** A square, white cloth, which is tied around the neck to cover the collar; used when the alb does not cover the collar completely.

**Amphora:** A large pitcher holding enough holy water to pour over an adult during Baptism.

**Apostolic See:** The Episcopal see of Rome. The pope as bishop of Rome has supreme authority over the regulation of the liturgy. Also called the Holy See.

**Apse:** A semicircular or rectangular space that is sometimes vaulted by a half dome. Often an apse is a part of or adjacent to the sanctuary. Sometimes statues or other devotional items are placed in an apse.

**Asperges:** A Latin term referring to the optional sprinkling rite used at the beginning of Mass, most commonly used during the Easter season. The tool used for the sprinkling is called an aspergillum.

**Aspergillum:** An instrument used for the sprinkling of holy water; a live branch can also be used as an aspergillum.

**Assembly:** The people gathered for worship; the congregation.

**Baptistry:** The part of a church where the baptismal font is located.

**Benediction:** A blessing given by a priest with the Blessed Sacrament exposed in a monstrance.

**Blessed Sacrament:** The name commonly used to refer to the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine after they have been consecrated and have become the Body and Blood of Christ. The term may also be used to refer to the consecrated bread alone.

**Boat:** The small container, often in the approximate shape of a boat, used to hold incense to place in the thurible.

**Bobèche:** A disk or “collar” of metal, glass, plastic, or paper used to catch the wax dripping down a candle.

**Book of Gospels:** The collection of Gospel passages that may occur on Sundays or other major occasions, including solemnities, feasts of the Lord, and ritual Masses... This book is often beautifully decorated and is carried in the opening procession and placed on the altar. During the Liturgy of the Word, when it comes time for the reading of the Gospel, the book is carried in procession from the altar to the ambo by a priest or deacon, who then proclaims the Gospel.

**Cantor:** Generally, the one who leads the singing at liturgy.

**Catechumen:** An unbaptized person preparing to enter the Catholic Church.

**Cathedra:** Bishop’s chair, which is a sign of his teaching authority in the Church.

**Chalice:** The cup, made of precious metals, that holds the consecrated wine at Mass... Sometimes also called a “communion cup.”

**Chalice Veil:** A white veil (or liturgical color of the day) that may cover the chalice and pall prior to the chalice’s preparation at the Preparation of the Gifts.

**Chasuble:** The vestment proper to the priest or bishop at Mass and at other sacred actions connected with the Mass; it is worn over the alb and stole. The chasuble is generally the liturgical colour for the season, solemnity, feast, or memorial being celebrated.

**Chrismatories:** Glass jars or decanters that hold the sacred oils and are placed in the ambry.

**Christmas:** The season that celebrates the Incarnation. It begins December 25 and concludes with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord in mid-January.

**Ciborium (Plural Ciboria):** A sacred vessel with cover generally used to hold consecrated hosts for the distribution of Holy Communion and to be reserved in the tabernacle.

**Cincture:** A cord, usually white, that belts the alb around the waist.

**Collect:** The prayer that gathers together (collects) the prayers of the assembly near the beginning of Mass.

**Commissioned:** This term refers to a public act of installing and blessing a member of the laity into ministries of service not requiring ordination for either single or multiple occasions.

**Common:** Refers to prayers that can be used for a variety of different commemorations – The Roman Missal includes Common of Dedication of a Church, Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Commons for many different categories of saints.

**Communion Rite:** The Communion Rite is the last part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It begins with the Lord's Prayer, and includes the Sign of Peace, the Lamb of God, during which the fraction of the host takes place, and the distribution of Communion to the faithful. The Communion Rite ends with the Prayer after Communion.

**Concluding Rite:** The end of Mass following the Prayer after Communion. At this time, any necessary announcements are heard, the Final Blessing is given, and the assembly is dismissed, transformed by the word they have heard and the Eucharist they have received, "to love and serve the Lord."

**Consecrated:** Refers to the bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass. When the priest prays the words of Jesus in the consecration, the bread and wine cease to be bread and wine (although the appearance of bread and wine remain); they become the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Consecration:** Refers to the narrative of the Institution of the Eucharist in the Eucharistic Prayer, where the priest pronounces the words of Christ at the Last Supper and the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Cope:** An ankle-length cloak that may be worn by priests and deacons at liturgies outside of Mass, including Baptism, Benediction, and the Liturgy of the Hours... also worn for processions on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi).

**Corporal:** From Latin (*corpus*: body), a square white linen cloth laid upon the altar cloth at the Preparation of the Gifts; the priest places the chalice, paten, and host upon it... Any vessels (chalice, ciborium, monstrance) holding the Blessed Sacrament are to be placed on a corporal.

**Credence Table:** A small table near the altar that holds the chalice, paten, corporal, purificators, water cruet, finger bowl, and towel for the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy.

**Crosier:** A staff carried by the bishop of a diocese in procession; it usually resembles a shepherd's staff.

**Cruet:** Small flask or container that holds water or wine for the celebration of Eucharist. The wine Cruet may be replaced with a flagon.

**Custodia:** A fitted metal case which holds the lunette, which is used for eucharistic exposition.

**Dalmatic:** The outer liturgical garment proper to the deacon, worn over the alb and stole at Mass and in processions. It often has ample cut sleeves, is usually at least knee length, and follows the liturgical color of the day/ season.

**Deputed:** This term refers to a public act of installing and blessing a member of the laity into a non-ordained ministry of service for either a single or multiple occasion(s). It is specifically used in reference to extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

**Devotions:** Prayers or private acts of worship. The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* reminds us that devotions should “harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some way derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy, by its very nature far surpasses any of them.”

**Discourse:** A speech, lecture, or letter which makes an argument or explanation.

**Easter:** The most sacred season of the liturgical year which celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus. The Fifty Days of Easter begin with the Easter Vigil and conclude with Pentecost. Easter Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

**Epiclesis:** An invitation of the Holy Spirit to come upon the gifts (and later the people assembled) during the Eucharistic Prayer.

**Eucharistic Species:** the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ. Also called the sacred species.

**Exposition:** The rite in which the Blessed Sacrament is “exposed” in a monstrance.

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:** A lay minister who assists in the distribution of Holy Communion when needed.

**Feast:** Commemorations of major saints and some events in the life of Jesus. Feasts rank between memorials and solemnities in terms of liturgical importance and emphasis... These days are confined only to the natural day; that is, they do not have a vigil and do not begin the evening before.

**Finger Towel:** Towel used to dry the priest celebrant’s hands.

**Flagon:** A large container resembling a carafe used to hold wine brought up by the assembly at the Preparation of the Gifts during Mass.

**Font:** The receptacle of various shapes and sizes containing water at which Baptisms are performed. Holy water fonts are the small vessels used to hold blessed water. They are usually located near the entrance of a church or chapel.

**Frontal:** A cloth that hangs down the front of an altar, often in the liturgical colour, also known as an antependium.

**Funeral Rite:** The *Order of Christian Funerals* includes the Vigil for the Deceased, Prayers after Death, Gathering in the Presence of the Body, Transfer of the Body to the Church, Reception of the Body at the Church, Mass of Christian Burial, Funeral Liturgy outside of Mass, and the Rite of Committal at the grave site. Variations of the rites are available for infants and children, including unbaptized infants. The symbols of Baptism figure strongly in the rite.

**Gaudete Sunday:** The Third Sunday of Advent. On Gaudete Sunday rose vestments may be worn in place of the Advent purple.

**General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM):** The handbook for celebrating Mass in the Roman rite. The latest version was published in Latin in 2000 and in English in 2002 for use in English speaking countries.

**Genres:** Literary types that have a characteristic style, form, and subject matter.

**Genuflect:** An act of reverence – the lowering of one knee to the ground in front of the tabernacle.

**Gifts:** The bread and wine, as well as the collection of money or donations for the poor.

**Gremiale:** A cloth spread over the lap of the bishop to protect his vestments during anointing.

**Holy Week:** The final week before Easter that begins with Palm Sunday and concludes with the Paschal Triduum.

**Hospitality:** The practice of being friendly and kind towards guests, of being hospitable, welcoming.

**Humeral Veil:** A long, rectangular silk shawl worn over the shoulders by priests and deacons to cover the hands when holding sacred vessels containing the Body of Christ.... whether in procession or for benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Indult:** A concession or favour granted by the lawful superior (pope, Apostolic See, bishop) that allows the recipient to do something that the common law of the Church may not otherwise permit.

**International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL):** “A mixed commission of Catholic Bishops’ Conferences in countries where English is used in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy according to the Roman rite. The purpose of the Commission is to prepare English translations of each of the Latin liturgical books and any individual liturgical texts in accord with the directives of the Holy See.

**Introductory Rite:** The purpose of the rite “is to ensure that the faithful who come together as one establish communion and dispose themselves to listen properly to God’s word and celebrate the Eucharist worthily.” It consists of the Entrance Procession and Song, Sign of the Cross, Opening Greeting, Penitential Act (Penitential Rite), Kyrie, Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling Holy Water, Gloria, and Collect (Opening Prayer).

**Laetare Sunday:** The Fourth Sunday of Lent. As on Gaudete Sunday, rose vestments may be worn in place of violet ones.

**Lavabo:** A pitcher and bowl used for the washing of the priest’s hands during Mass.

**Lectern:** A simple podium for the leading of song and making announcements.

**Lectio Divina:** a process of slow meditation on the word of God.

**Lectionary:** A four-volume series that contains the readings for Sundays, weekdays, and various needs and occasions... The book containing all the scripture passages read at Mass during the year, including the Responsorial Psalms. (Gospel passages also appear in the Book of the Gospels.) The Lectionary is not carried in procession but is placed on the ambo so that the lectors may read from it.

**Lector:** Any lay minister who reads from the Lectionary at Mass (also called a reader).

**Lent:** Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Lent is the season of approximately 40 days of prayer, penance, and abstinence that prepares the faithful for Easter...It is a penitential season, preparing those for the celebration of Baptism and the renewal of baptismal promises at Easter.

**Liturgical Books:** Those books that have been officially approved for use at Mass and in liturgy.

**Liturgical Colour:** Each season of the liturgical year and particular solemnities, feasts, and memorials are assigned colours. The colour is generally reflected in the vestments of the priest and the decorations of the church.

**Liturgical Year:** The marking of the calendar year with occasions that reveal the grace and mystery of the Trinity. "Christ's saving work is celebrated in sacred memory by the Church on fixed days throughout the year. Each week on the day called the Lord's Day the Church commemorates the Lord's resurrection. Once a year at Easter the Church honours this resurrection and passion with the utmost solemnity. In fact through the yearly cycle the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ and keeps the anniversary of the saints."

**Liturgy:** "The word 'liturgy' originally meant a 'public work' or a 'service in the name of/on behalf of the people.' In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in 'the work of God'" (Cf. John 17.4) (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1069*). Liturgy includes the sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours, and other rites and rituals, especially the celebration of the Mass.

**Liturgy Committee:** A team of people with varying expertise and skills who help prepare a community to carry out the Church's plan of worship.

**Liturgy of the Eucharist:** Begins with the Preparation of the Gifts and ends with the Prayer after Communion, during which the action of the Mass is centered around the altar.... The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist form but "one single act of worship."

**Liturgy of the Hours:** Called "the prayer of the Church," the primary offices of the Liturgy of the Hours are Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. It consists largely of the chanting or recitation of psalms. It is prayed daily... It is sometimes referred to as the Divine Office.

**Liturgy of the Word:** The parts of Mass from the first reading through the Prayer of the Faithful during which the action of the Mass is centered around the ambo.

**Lucernarium:** A ceremonial lighting of candles, which sometimes takes place as part of the Office of Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.

**Lunette:** A French term ("little moon") for the small circular glass receptacle which can be inserted into a monstrance for Eucharistic Adoration or devotion; also called a luna or lunula.

**Mass:** Term used to describe the celebration of the Eucharist. Mass is celebrated each day with the exception of Good Friday.

**Memorial:** Commemorations of saints who are of importance to the universal Church. Optional Memorials recognize saints who are important to particular regions, communities, or cultures. Solemnities and feasts rank of greater importance than memorials... They are either obligatory (that is, they must be celebrated) or optional.

**Miter:** A pointed head cover or hat with two strips of material (called fanons or lappets) worn by Bishops (and abbots) during liturgical celebrations.

**Monstrance:** A vessel used for displaying the consecrated host for purposes of veneration by the faithful... Usually an ornate vessel, with a round, transparent container, used to view the consecrated host; sometimes called an ostensorium.

**Narrative:** A story.

**Narthex:** The entrance hall between a church's front doors and its main interior; sometimes called the vestibule or gathering space... The faithful may gather in the narthex at times for social purposes, and certain rites may take place there.

**Nave:** The main body of a church, given because of its imagined resemblance to a ship... The portion of the church reserved for those gathered to worship.

**O Antiphons:** The seven antiphons for the Canticle of Mary that are used during Evening Prayer on the nights immediately preceding Christmas Eve. The antiphons draw titles of Jesus from the Old and New Testaments and have been popularized in the hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

**Offertory Table:** A small table, usually located in the nave, where the gifts of bread and wine are placed to be brought forward in procession by members of the assembly.

**Orans:** An open-armed gesture for prayer that the ordained assume.

**Ordinary:** In *The Roman Missal*, "ordinary" refers to those parts of the liturgy that are repeated at every Mass – it includes the formulas for the Penitential Act, the Gloria, the Creed, the prayers for the Preparation of the Gifts, and the Eucharistic Prayers.

**Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion:** Those who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders (bishop, priest, and deacons).

**Ordinary Time:** The greater part of the liturgical year, weeks marked ordinarily, that is, "counted," as in the Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is often designated seasonally: Ordinary Time in Winter, occurring between Christmas and Lent; Ordinary Time in Summer, from Pentecost to Assumption; and Ordinary Time in Autumn, From Assumption to the solemnity of Christ the King.

**Ordo:** Latin term meaning "order." A book that gives detailed information about each day of the liturgical year, including vestment colors, Lectionary readings, options for prayers, etc.

**Pall:** A sacred square cloth of white linen lined with cardboard used to place over the chalice at Mass. The term also is used for the large white, cloth covering placed over coffins at funeral Masses.

**Parish / Pastoral Council:** In accord with canon 536 of the Code of Canon Law, a parish pastoral council is to be established in each parish or cluster of parishes. It is a collaborative body of the Christian faithful whose purpose is the promotion of the mission of Jesus Christ and the Church. The liturgy committee flows from this council.

**Paschal Candle:** A large wax candle placed in a tall holder to symbolize the light of the Risen Christ. It is blessed at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. During Easter Time, it is placed near the ambo. It stays there until the end of Pentecost. After Pentecost, it is placed near the Baptismal pool and is used during Baptisms and Funerals.

**Paschal Triduum:** Begins on Holy Thursday with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. Triduum means the "Three Days of Passover." During this short season, the followers of Jesus proclaim that in the life, Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus, God has freed and saved us. This is the high point of the entire liturgical year.

**Pastoral Staff:** A staff resembling a shepherd's crook carried by the Bishop during liturgical celebrations.

**Paten:** A sacred vessel resembling a small, flat plate used to hold the host at Mass... The paten, along with the chalice, may be lifted during the doxology at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer. The consecrated eucharistic bread is also broken on it during the fraction rite.

**Pentecost:** The solemnity that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and is also the birthday of the Church. It takes place on the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season.

**Preface:** The Preface is the first part of the Eucharistic Prayer. It is spoken or sung by the priest and concludes with the entire assembly's singing of the Holy, Holy, Holy.

**Presidential Chair:** The chair from where the priest celebrant presides.

**Presider:** The leader of prayer in a liturgical celebration. The presider may be a bishop, priest, or deacon. In certain celebrations, such as the Liturgy of the Hours or the Liturgy of the Word, the leader of prayer may be a lay minister, but the term *presider* would not be used.

**Proclamation:** The act of proclaiming, that is, the act of making known publicly. Within the context of the role of the lector, proclamation is the act of making known to the gathered assembly "the continuity of the work of salvation according to God's wonderful plan."

**Procession:** Formal, ordered movement of people from one place to another.

**Promulgate:** The formal implementation of a Church document or ritual.

**Proper:** Refers to a part of the Mass which is unique ("proper") to a particular season or saint. Two major portions of the prayers of *The Roman Missal* include the "Proper of Time" and the "Proper of Saints."

**Purification:** The pouring of water (or water and wine) into the sacred vessels to cleanse them of loose particles of the host and remove any remaining Precious Blood. After the liquid is consumed, a purificatory is used to dry the sacred vessels. The purification of sacred vessels is limited to the ordained and to instituted acolytes.

**Purificator:** A small, absorbent, preferably white, easily laundered cloth used for cleaning the chalice(s) during Mass by wiping the lip of the chalice and, either after Holy Communion or after Mass, to dry all the sacred vessels during the purification process.

**Pyx:** A small metallic container used by ministers of Communion to hold consecrated hosts; most often used for pastoral care ministries... often shaped like a pocket watch, in which the consecrated host is carried to the sick, homebound, and dying.

**Reliquary:** A sacred container displaying relics of the saints.

**Ritual:** The word *ritual* comes from the Latin *ritualis* meaning “rite” or “form.” Ritual can be described as the prescribed words and actions of a liturgical function.

**Ritual Books:** Official text for Roman Catholic worship. Liturgical or ritual books include the *praenotanda* (pastoral introduction to the rite) and the ritual text with rubrics (directions). The original text is in Latin but is translated into the vernacular.

**Ritual Gesture:** Movements by the body of Christ or the presiding minister during the liturgy. These would include orans (arms out-stretched), laying on of hands, kissing of altar or Book of Gospels, genuflections, and bows.

**Roman Missal:** Formerly called *The Sacramentary*. The book that contains the prayers and other information needed by the celebrant for Mass and other sacramental celebrations.

**Roman Pontifical:** Ritual book containing rites at which a Bishop usually presides, such as Confirmation, ordinations, and the dedication of a church, among others.

**Rubric:** The rules, guidelines, and directions for the Mass and other liturgies. They are printed in red in the liturgical books.

**Sacrament:** A basic definition of sacraments that has served people well for generations is “an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.” Since sacraments are not private events, they can be seen as actions of Christ and the Church.

**Sacramental:** An object or action that reminds one of a sacrament, or helps one live a holy life as a living sacrament; a sign of God’s grace to the world.

**Sacrarium:** A special sink within the sacristy for the cleaning of sacred vessels after purification by clerics or instituted ministers. It drains directly into the earth, and not into the sewer system.

**Sacred Vessel:** Refers to any receptacle used for holding the bread and wine to be consecrated at the Mass, and includes patens, chalices, and ciboria, usually made of gold or precious metal... These objects are blessed.

**Sacristan:** The liturgical minister responsible for the care and placement of all the sacred objects and other items needed in the celebration of the liturgy, including vestments and vessels, and supplies of candles, hosts, and wine.

**Sacristy:** The room where the sacred objects and other liturgical items and supplies are stored, cared for, and prepared for use.

**Sanctoral Cycle:** the observances of Mary and the saints during the liturgical year. Most occur on fixed dates and are ranked as solemnities, feast, or memorial (obligatory or optional).

**Sanctuary:** The place in the church where the altar, ambo, and presider's chair are found... Most sanctuaries are elevated for the sake of visibility. This area is sometimes referred to as the presbyterium or chancel.

**Sanctuary Lamp:** A candle or oil lamp lit to indicate the presence of the Eucharist in the tabernacle.

**Service:** "Generally speaking this would define the obligation the persons have as creatures toward God to show proper homage and pertains to those acts of the virtue of religion by which they serve God personally and socially."

**Situla:** The traditional bucket or ornate bowl that holds holy water for various orders of blessings.

**Solemnity:** The highest level of importance for a liturgical observance. Solemnities take precedence over all other celebrations... These celebrations include not only the day itself, but also the evening before, beginning with either Evening Prayer or with a Vigil Mass.

**Stole:** A narrow strip of cloth worn over both shoulders by priests, and over the left shoulder, diagonally across the chest, and fastened near the hip, by deacons. Most often, it is worn under a chasuble or dalmatic. The stole marks the authority of Bishops, priests, and deacons. There are two types of stoles: sacerdotal and diaconal.

**Sunday:** The most important day of the Christian week. "In the weekly reckoning of time Sunday recalls the day of Christ's resurrection. It is Easter which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death, the fulfillment in him of the first creation and the dawn of 'the new creation' (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17). It is the day which recalls in grateful adoration the world's first day and looks forward in active hope to 'the last day,' when Christ will come in glory (cf. Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17) and all things will be made new (cf. Revelation 21:5).

**Sunday Cycle:** The readings for Sunday and major solemnities follow a three-year cycle, designated as Year A (the Gospel according to Matthew is prominent), Year B (the Gospel of Mark is prominent), and Year C (the Gospel of Luke is prominent). The Gospel according to John is read during all three years, predominately during the Easter Season.

**Tabernacle:** A dignified and secure enclosure where the consecrated bread is kept for purposes of communion for the sick and dying, adoration, or communion services in the absence of a priest... It is a place of sacred reservation and prayer... It is usually in the shape of a box (though some may be rounded rather than rectilinear), and a sanctuary lamp, a candle, or oil lamp is placed nearby.

**Taper:** A long wax-coated wick used to light candles.

**Temporal Cycle:** The seasons throughout the liturgical year. The high seasons are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Paschal Triduum, and Easter. The remaining time is Ordinary Time.

**Theme:** A topic or subject matter.

**Thurible:** A vessel made of metal and hanging from chains that carries hot coals and incense in procession. The minister who tends this vessel is called a thurifer.... Sometimes called a censer.

**Thurifer:** The person who carries the thurible or censer.

**Transepts:** the “arms” or sections off the nave in a cruciform-shaped church.

**Triduum:** Three days marked from sunset to sunset beginning on Holy Thursday, including Good Friday and Holy Saturday and ending on Easter Sunday. During this time, the Paschal Mystery is recalled and celebrated with solemn ritual.

**Vestments:** Liturgical clothing worn by ministers in the liturgy (including the alb, cincture, stole, dalmatic, chasuble, and cope); also altar coverings and cloths used in the liturgy.

**Vernacular:** Language proper to a particular country or locale.

**Vigil:** Celebrations the evening before a holy day.

**Vimpa:** A cloth placed around the shoulder of an acolyte or altar server used to hold a miter and crosier of the Bishop.

**Votive Mass:** A Mass said during Ordinary Time in honour of a mystery of the Lord (for example, the Holy Cross, the Precious Blood, the Eucharist), the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, or one of the saints.

**Vox Clara:** Latin for “clear voice,” Vox Clara is a consultative committee of bishops, priests, and other consultants, established in 2002 by Pope John Paul II to assist the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments in fulfilling its responsibilities with regard to the English translations of the Latin liturgical texts.

**Zuchetto:** A colored skull cap worn by Bishops and others: white for pope; red for cardinals; purple for Bishops and Archbishops; black for abbots.



*“Without eyes there is no light;  
without knowledge there is no wisdom.  
The mind of the intelligent appreciates proverbs,  
and an attentive ear is the desire of the wise.”*

*(Sirach 3: 25, 29)*