



KNOW & GROW TOPIC OF THE WEEK: *WHAT'S THAT THING CALLED? - "CHURCHY" WORDS, PART 2*

The following are some “churchy” terms for items and spaces typically used in setting up for and gathering for Mass.

PASCHAL CANDLE: (also known as Easter Candle or Christ Candle or Jesus Candle) the large candle first lit at the Easter Vigil and used at Baptisms and funerals to remind us of our link to Christ who is the “light of the world”. The candle displays ornamentation which includes five grains of incense arranged in the shape of a cross representing the wounds of Jesus, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, meaning Christ is the beginning and end of all things

PATEN: a plate that holds the gift of bread that becomes the body of Christ

PURIFICATOR: a linen napkin used to wipe the cup that holds the blood of Christ

PYX: a small vessel to hold the holy bread of the Eucharist when a Eucharistic Minister carries it out of church to people who are sick

ROMAN MISSAL/SACRAMENTARY: the official book of the prayers spoken by the presider at Mass — this is the book you will often see the altar servers hold for the priest at the beginning and end of Mass. The Roman Missal is printed in red ink (for the rubrics [rules, instructions]) and black ink (for the actual prayers spoken). Scripture readings are not included in the Roman Missal.



pyxes

SACRARIUM: a sink in the sacristy with a drain that leads directly to the earth. The sacrarium is used to dispose of materials used for sacred purposes, for example, blessed water or blessed ashes. The sacrarium does not enter into the public sewer system; it empties into a special well dug so the sacred does not mix with disposed waste.

SACRISTY: the room in which all the vessels and vestments used in the liturgy are stored and cared for

SANCTUARY: the space around the altar and ambo. The word comes from a Latin word and means “sacred, holy place”

SANCTUARY LAMP: the special candle kept lit near the tabernacle to indicate the Lord’s presence in the form of the Eucharistic bread; this reminds us that Jesus is with us during day and night

TABERNACLE: a safe-like, secure place for the exclusive reservation and worship of the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated hosts to be used as Communion for those who are homebound, sick and dying, and sometimes for those at Mass. **Note: To show reverence, we bow to the tabernacle before and after Mass. We bow to the altar during Mass.**

THURIBLE (ALSO KNOWN AS CENSER): a metal container, in the form of a cup or bowl, with a perforated cover, suspended on a chain. It is used for incensing persons or objects. Incense burned on lighted charcoal inside the censer provides the fragrant smoke that billows out as the censer is swung back and forth. A small, elongated dish, often called an incense boat because of its elongated shape, holds extra incense and a small spoon. The person carrying the thurible (or censer) is called a thurifer.