



KNOW & GROW TOPIC OF THE WEEK: *WHAT'S THAT THING CALLED?* - "CHURCHY" WORDS, PART 1

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

ALTAR: the holy table of the Lord, on which the Eucharistic sacrifice is celebrated, and to which the People of God are invited. At the altar we offer not only the bread and wine to be consecrated into the Body and Blood of Jesus, but we also offer our lives to Jesus. **Note: During Mass, we bow to the altar in reverence. Before and after Mass, we bow to the tabernacle.**

AMBO: the lectern/holy place where God's word is spoken and where the lector proclaims the readings in the Liturgy of the Word.

CHALICE: a cup that holds the wine that becomes the blood of Christ

CIBORIUM: shaped much like a chalice, this is a covered vessel that holds the gift of bread that becomes the body of Christ

CONSECRATION: "to make holy." At Mass, the priest prays a special blessing consecrating bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. The unique role of the priest through the action of transubstantiation changes the total substance of bread into the body of Christ and wine into the blood of Christ without changing the external appearance.

CORPORAL: a linen cloth that is put on the altar, over the altar cloth, on which the chalice and paten are placed at the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

CRESCENCE TABLE: the small table, usually in the sanctuary, that holds vessels, the lavabo bowl, and other necessary items for the celebration of Mass

CRUET: a vessel that holds water or wine

FONT: the basin where baptism is administered; it is given a prominent and visible place in the church building to remind us of the close connection of Baptism and Eucharist.

LAVABO BOWL: the bowl to use to wash the presider's hand. The word "Lavabo" is Latin and it means "I wash." This ceremony of purification follows the offertory and is an act of preparation for the Consecration; it is an expression of the priest's desire for inward purification. It is also symbolic of the washing of the Apostles' feet by Christ which, in turn, was a symbolical act of spiritual cleanliness.

LECTIONARY: the official book of the scripture readings read at Mass throughout the liturgical year. Each reading is called a "lection" or "lesson." The book contains a three-year cycle of Scripture readings for Sundays and solemn feasts. A separate Lectionary may also be used for Daily Masses.

MONSTRANCE: the sacred vessel used for the exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

NARTHEX: An entry space, foyer, or anteroom of a church between the door and the nave.

NAVE: the body of the church building where we sit, stand, kneel and pray



Monstrance