

## Familiar Words for Servers

**Alb:** A long, white garment which covers the entire body. This is always worn by the celebrant. In some parishes, the servers also wear albs. This was the ancient garb of a Roman citizen.

**Altar:** The place where the sacrifice of Jesus is offered to the Father and made present to us. The Lord's Table, where the Eucharist is celebrated. It is treated with respect. It also represents Christ, who is the center of our parish life. Servers show respect to the altar by bowing when passing in front of it.

**Ambo:** A stand or lectern where the readings are done. A church may have one or two of them.

**Ambry:** A special box where the holy oils are kept safe.

**Benediction:** A service of special devotion to the Eucharist. This is different from Mass. Your parish priest will show you how to serve at this.

**Celebrant:** The one who leads the ceremony. This will usually be a priest from the parish, but it may also be a visiting priest, the Bishop, or a deacon.

**Chalice:** The cup used by the celebrant when he consecrates the wine into the Blood of Christ. It is usually made of gold or silver, but it can be made of other materials.

**Ciborium:** A covered chalice or container used to hold the consecrated bread during Mass and in the tabernacle.

**Cincture:** A thin rope, tied around the waist over the alb. When a parish uses albs for the servers, a cincture is also worn.

**Corporal:** A square piece of white cloth which is spread over the altar cloth. It is put on the altar where the celebrant will say Mass. The chalice and paten are placed on it.

**Credence Table:** A side table in the sanctuary where all the objects used for Mass are put before and after they are actually used.

**Cross-Bearer:** The server who assists at liturgical rites by carrying the processional cross, holding the sacramentary or performing other duties.

**Cruets:** Covered, bottle-like containers that hold the water and wine. They often have a small dish or plate under them.

**Eucharist:** A Greek word that means "thanksgiving." It refers to the bread and wine that have been consecrated. It also refers to the part of the Mass where the consecration takes place. the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We give thanks that God gives us his Son in this sacrament.

**Eucharistic Prayer:** The long prayer said by the celebrant in the name of the congregation. This prayer consecrates the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. The celebrant reminds us of the great things God has done for us, especially in giving us the gift of His Son. We give thanks to God, through the celebrant, in the Eucharistic Prayer.

**Flagon:** A metal or glass pitcher which is sometimes used to consecrate enough wine for many people to receive the Blood of Christ during Mass.

**Genuflect:** The act of bending on the right knee to give reverence and worship to God. This is done by a server whenever passing in front of the tabernacle, as a sign of respect for the Eucharist.

**Gift Table:** The table in the back of the church (near font) where the bread and wine are placed before Mass begins.

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**Incense:** A mixture of resins, bark, and other natural materials which gives off sweet-smelling smoke when burned. This smoke rises and represents our prayers rising to God. The use of incense is optional in a parish. The celebrant will tell the servers when it will be used.

**Lavabo:** The washing of the celebrant's hands before the Eucharistic Prayer. The servers bring a bowl, the water cruet, and a towel while the celebrant prays for forgiveness.

**Lectionary:** The large book containing the Bible readings used at Mass. This is the book used by the reader, and by the celebrant for the Gospel.

**Lector:** Also called the reader, this is the person who does most of the reading from the Lectionary. The lector is sometimes in the procession, carrying the Lectionary.

**Mass:** The principal celebration of Catholic worship. Jesus is present in the reading of the Word of God, in the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist, and in the worshipping community. We celebrate His presence and give thanks for His life-giving sacrifice.

**Monstrance:** A large metal container to display or show the host. It is often gold or silver-colored. Benediction is the ceremony when the monstrance is most often used.

**Pall:** The cloth-covered square that fits over the chalice.

**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. It stays in the sanctuary until the end of Pentecost, and is lighted during every ceremony. After Pentecost, it is placed near the baptismal font, and used during Baptisms and funerals.

**Paten:** A round metal plate which holds the host used by the celebrant during Mass. It is also the plate sometimes used by servers during Communion.

**Predella:** The raised platform where the celebrant's chair, altar, and ambo are located.

**Procession:** A solemn way to walk through the church. Many people walk together toward or away from the sanctuary, usually at the beginning or end of a ceremony. There can also be smaller processions during a ceremony. This may be done with music or in silence. Sometimes processions are held outside the church building.

**Purificator:** A small white cloth used to clean the chalice and paten after Communion.

**Sacramentary:** The large book which contains all the prayers said by the celebrant during Mass. This book is often held by the server at the beginning and end of the Mass. It is placed on the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer.

**Sacristy:** The room in the church where the celebrant prepares for Mass. Most of the objects used for Mass are kept in this room. The servers will also prepare in this room or in a special sacristy of their own.

**Sanctuary Candle:** There is always a single candle burning by the tabernacle to show the presence of the Eucharist. This shows the presence of Christ, the light of the world, in the church. It also represents our watchfulness before Christ.

**Server:** Someone who helps and assists the celebrant during a ceremony.

**Tabernacle:** The place where the Eucharist is kept during the week. Many churches have a special chapel or shrine on the side for the tabernacle. Some churches have it behind the altar. As a sign of reverence, a server genuflects whenever passing in front of the tabernacle.