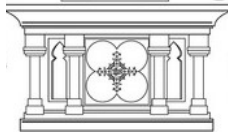


Faith in Five - Adults
Sacred Furnishings, Articles and Vessels
July 15, 2022



Crucifix
 cross with a figure of Christ crucified, near or on the altar



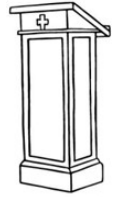
Altar
 signifies Jesus, the Living Stone (1 Peter 2:4)



Baptismal Font
 used to hold holy water for use in baptisms



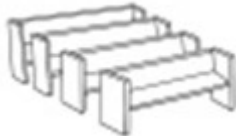
Presider's Chair
 symbolizes the office of the priest



Ambo
 the raised speaking podium



Stations of the Cross
 found on the walls of the church, depicting events of Jesus' crucifixion



Pews



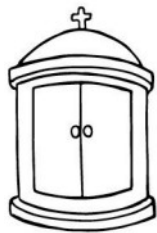
Statues
 figures not to be worshipped but honored to preserve their memory



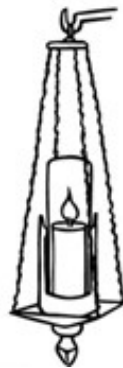
Holy Water Font
 located at the entrance doors of the church



Paschal Candle
 a symbol of 'the Light of Christ'; Jesus' resurrection dispelling darkness (death)



Tabernacle
 houses the Blessed Sacrament; we genuflect to show reverence to Jesus



Sanctuary Lamp
 a perpetual light near the tabernacle, to signify Jesus is present



Monstrance
 exposes the Blessed Sacrament



Thurible
 metal censer that holds hot charcoal for incense



Incense Boat
 a vessel that holds loose, unburnt incense



Host
 the unconsecrated communion wafer; when consecrated, it is Jesus - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity



Bells
 (during the consecration) calls our attention to Jesus being present



Book of the Gospels and Sacramentary
 Books priest uses



Lectionary
 Book of Scripture Readings lector uses



Missal
 contains prayers, songs, responses, & instructions for celebrating Mass

Sacred Vessels

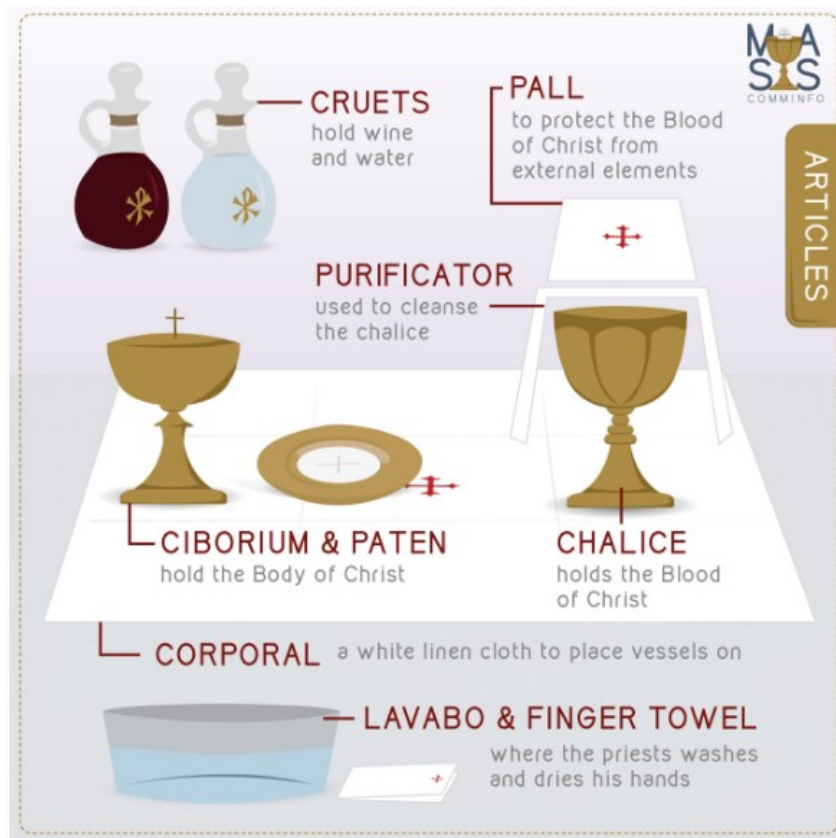


Image Source: <https://masscomminfo.tumblr.com/>

Prayer can be done anywhere but liturgy as public and ordered worship requires a place, where it can be carried out as a sacred rite. These buildings for divine worship are not just gathering spaces but signify and make visible the living Church, the dwelling of God with men reconciled and united with Christ. (CCC, 1179-1186).

In the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (295), "The sanctuary is the place where the altar stands, where the word of God is proclaimed, and where the priest, deacon and the other ministers exercise their offices". This area is often raised and considered holy because of the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

All of the sacred furnishings point to Christ: "... on the altar Christ offers Himself for us; from the ambo (lectern) Christ announces the Good News to us; at the presider's chair Christ sits among us [the priest in persona Christi]; through the baptismal font we become members of Christ; in front of the tabernacle and as we gather in the pews, we meet Christ".

Sacred furnishings, articles and vessels are blessed, set apart, and dedicated specifically for the holy celebration of the liturgy and Sacraments. Items blessed for liturgical use are to be handled with great care and reverence as they have a significant purpose. The sacred vessels are made of precious metal and hold a special honor, especially the chalice and paten, which are used to consecrate the bread and wine offered.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?...God's temple is holy and you are that temple." By grace we are sons and daughters of the Most High God. Through our baptism and confirmation, we are temples of the Holy Spirit. In reconciliation, we are healed through forgiveness. When we receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we become holy and sacred. Just as sacred furnishings and vessels are set aside for God's purpose, may we keep ourselves holy to glorify God!

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