

TREASURES of OUR FAITH

by: Deacon Ryan Adams

Greetings brothers and sisters. As we go through this 'Year of Faith', each week we will take a journey together to deepen and rediscover our faith as Catholic Christians. We will take time to look at the rich traditions of our Church, we'll look at what certain things signify and their symbolism, take time to answer some frequently asked questions and look at why we do certain things as Catholics.

This week we'll look at items to be used during liturgies.

HOLY OILS – There are three kinds: oil of the catechumen, holy chrism and oil of the sick. All three are blessed by a Bishop during Holy week at the Chrism mass. The Holy oils are symbols of spiritual nourishment and the light of grace. They are used in the public administration of baptism, confirmation and anointing of the sick. They are all pure olive oil but the oil of the Holy Chrism oil has a mixture of balm which gives it a sweet smell.

LECTIONARY - It contains a three-year cycle of readings for Sundays and solemn feasts, a two-year weekday cycle, and a one-year cycle for the feasts of saints. It also contains readings for a large variety of other Masses. There are also responsorial psalms that follow the first readings for each Mass, along with Gospel or Alleluia verses to follow the second readings.

ROMAN MISSAL – Contains the prayers and directives for Mass. It does not include the readings of the Mass.

BOOK OF GOSPELS – Holds the authentic accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Gospel is read at every Mass by a priest or deacon before the homily. The book of Gospels is carried in during the entrance procession, elevated by the deacon or a lector and placed upon the Altar.

CORPORAL – A square white linen cloth on which the host and chalice are placed during mass. The monstrance is placed atop the corporal at benediction and the Blessed Sacrament is always placed upon a corporal.

PATEN - A saucer-like dish of the same sacred material as the chalice. It must be large enough to cover the chalice. On it rests the bread to be consecrated during Mass, and once consecrated, the Sacred Host is placed on it until consumed and distributed.

PALL – A sacred covering. Most commonly, a pall is the stiff square cardboard covered with linen placed over the top of the chalice during Mass to protect its contents.

PURIFICATOR – A folded piece of linen with a cross in the center. It is used by both priest and Eucharistic ministers to wipe/purify the lip of the chalice when distributing the precious blood of our Lord to the faithful.

CHALICE - The cup-shaped vessel used at Mass that holds the wine that will become the Precious Blood of Christ after consecration. A chalice is consecrated with holy chrism oil by a bishop before its first use.

COMMUNION CUPS – These are Chalice-like vessels used during communion to distribute the precious blood. They are kept on the credence table until communion time when they are brought to the Altar and filled from the Flagon.

CIBORIUM - A covered container used to hold the consecrated small Hosts. It can be made of various precious metals. It is also the container that holds the Blessed Sacrament when stored in the Tabernacle.

FLAGON – This is the carafe like vessel used to hold the wine that will be consecrated into the precious blood for the communion of the faithful.

CRUET – One of two small bottles or vessels. One will contain the water to wash the celebrants hands (Lavabo) prior to the consecration, also to add a drop of water to the wine that will be consecrated and also used to purify the chalice after communion. The second cruet holds the wine that will be used during consecration when a larger flagon is not required; a good example is for daily mass.

HOLY WATER – Water blessed by a priest or deacon, invoking God's blessing on all who use it. Blessed water is a symbol of spiritual cleansing.

ASPERSORIUM (Vessel) & ASPERGILLUM (Sprinkler) – aspersorium, a basin that holds holy water. aspergillum - a short-handled device with a perforated ball used for sprinkling holy water.

ORDO - An annual calendar containing abbreviated directions for each day's Mass and Divine Office. It helps to map out the liturgical color of the day, the readings of the Mass, the Gospel reading, daily prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours as well as denoting any specific Saint of the day.