

The Altar Server's Visual Dictionary

Recognition, Handling Boundaries, and Confusables

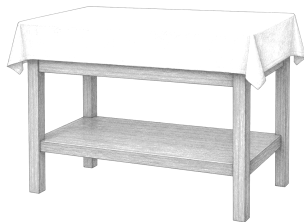
Altar-server edition

A visual field guide to recognition, relationship, and use



ISOLATE ♦ ASSEMBLE ♦ COMPARE

Credence table
abacus



The credence is a sanctuary service table for objects needed in the ceremony. The credence is a sanctuary service table on which objects needed for the selected ceremony are prepared or temporarily placed; construction, covering, contents, and exact location vary.

Lectern
legile



The 1962 Holy Week rites use freestanding legilia for readings, Passions, and the Paschal proclamation. Palm Sunday and Good Friday specify bare lecterns; the Easter Vigil specifies a lectern covered with a white cloth.

Sacristy cross or suitable image
cruz vel imago



The sacristy cross or suitable image is the locally appointed visual focus for the ministers' reverence. The appointed cross or image is presupposed by the sacristy departure rubric and is identified locally.

Reader note. Recognize the locally appointed cross or suitable image and make the reverence your guide assigns; do not assume the drawn cross is the only permitted form.

Sanctuary lamp
lampas



At least one sanctuary lamp burns continuously before the tabernacle in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. The Ceremonial directs that lamps around the place of reservation burn perpetually.

Sedilia
sedilia

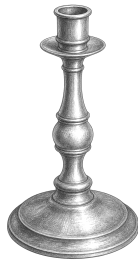


Sedilia are sanctuary seats for the celebrant, deacon, and subdeacon in the ceremonies that appoint them; separate movable chairs and a movable three-place bench are representative forms, while construction and placement vary.

Altar candle
candela



The candle is the wax light set in a candlestick; the ceremonial distinguishes the light from its support. The Ceremonial repeatedly distinguishes candlesticks from the wax candles they support and appoints both altar and carried lights.

Altar candlestick*candelabrum*

A candlestick is the support that holds the candle; it is distinct from the wax light. The Ceremonial names candlesticks and wax candles among objects prepared for episcopal ceremonies and describes two acolytes carrying them.

Altar cloths*tobaleae*

The altar cloths are the three clean blessed cloths that cover the altar for Mass. The 1962 Missal directs that the altar be covered with three clean blessed cloths.

Reader note. Recognize the three-cloth covering relationship, but do not lift, smooth, shift, fold, remove, or replace an altar cloth.

Missal cushion*cussinus*

The 1962 Missal names the cussinus as a support beneath the Missal. At Low Mass the Missal is opened on its cushion; the general rubric also permits a stand instead.

Missal stand*legile*

The 1962 Missal names the legile as the stand alternative beneath the Missal. A cushion or stand is placed beneath the Missal.

Chalice*calix*

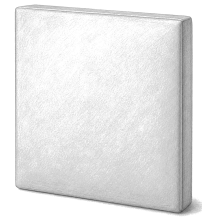
The chalice is the sacred vessel named by the 1962 Missal throughout the Offertory, Canon, Communion, ablutions, and removal from the altar. The 1962 Missal names the calix throughout the Offertory, Canon, Communion, ablutions, and concluding removal from the altar.

Reader note. Recognize the isolated vessel and the prepared formation; the separately folded corporal is carried with it but is not a stacked layer.

Paten*patena*

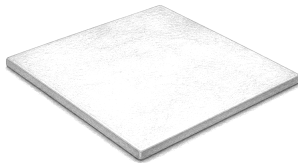
The paten is the celebrant's shallow sacred vessel, distinct in the 1962 Missal from the plate held beneath communicants' chins. In the prepared chalice stack, a clean purificator lies over the chalice mouth and the paten with host lies over the purificator.

Reader note. Recognize the priest's shallow sacred vessel and keep it distinct from the Communion plate.

Burse*bursa*

The burse is the case that contains the folded corporal and rests above the chalice veil in the prepared composition. The 1962 Missal places the folded corporal in the burse and the burse above the chalice veil in the prepared composition.

Reader note. Recognize the stiff square case above the veil; it contains the folded corporal but is not the small chalice pall.

Chalice pall*palla*

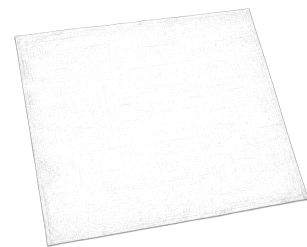
The chalice pall is the small linen cover placed above the paten in the prepared composition and used over the chalice during Mass. The 1962 Missal names a small linen pall placed above the paten in the prepared chalice stack and used over the chalice during Mass.

Reader note. Recognize the small square cover in the prepared chalice composition; leave it to the priest or appointed sacristan.

Chalice veil*velum sericum*

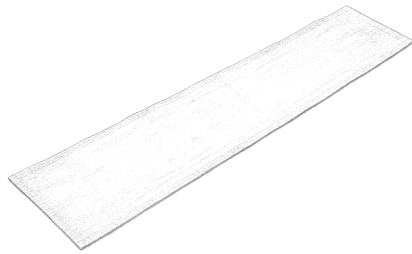
The chalice veil is the silk covering placed over the prepared chalice. The 1962 Missal places a silk veil over the prepared chalice and names its removal and replacement during Mass.

Reader note. Recognize the draped cover over the prepared chalice; do not confuse it with the stiff square burse above it.

Corporal*corporale*

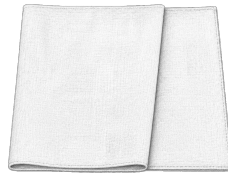
The corporal is the wholly white linen kept folded in the burse for preparation and spread in the middle of the altar. The 1962 Missal requires a wholly white linen corporal, folded in the burse during preparation and spread in the middle of the altar.

Reader note. Recognize the square altar linen beneath the sacred vessels; leave its handling to the appointed minister or sacristan.

Purificator*purificatorium*

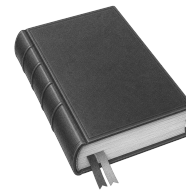
The purificator is the clean linen placed over the chalice mouth during preparation and used by the celebrant to wipe the chalice and his fingers. The 1962 Missal places a clean purificator over the chalice mouth during preparation and names it in the celebrant's wiping of the chalice and fingers.

Reader note. Recognize the narrow linen used at the chalice; do not confuse it with the square corporal or stiff pall.

Lavabo towel*manutergium*

The lavabo towel, historically called the manuterge in English, is the hand towel used after the celebrant washes his fingertips at the Offertory Lavabo. After the celebrant washes his fingertips at the Offertory Lavabo, he dries his hands; at Solemn Mass the acolytes minister the hand towel with the water cruet and small basin.

Reader note. Present and receive the towel at the appointed cue, keeping it clear of water, flame, hot fittings, and the floor.

Epistle book*liber Epistolarum*

The book itself

Carried context

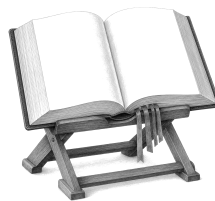
The 1962 Ritus names the separate liber Epistolarum used by the subdeacon at Solemn Mass. It is present as a distinct book in the Solemn-Mass Epistle ceremonial.

Gospel book*liber Evangeliorum*

The book itself

Sung context

The 1962 Ritus names the separate liber Evangeliorum used by the deacon and subdeacon at Solemn Mass. It is present as a distinct book in the Solemn-Mass Gospel ceremonial.

Altar Missal*Missale Romanum*

The Missale Romanum is the altar book required for Mass at the 1962 Roman horizon. The 1962 rubrics require the Missal and direct its preparation, placement, and movement.

Reader note. Recognize the Missal and move it with its support only when assigned.

Acolyte candlestick*candelabrum acolythi*

An acolyte candlestick is the tall, footed, self-standing candle support distinguished from a footless elevation torch. At solemn Mass, two candle-bearing acolytes carry their lights in the entrance and flank the subdeacon holding the Gospel book.

Altar bells*campanula*

The altar bell is the small bell prepared for the appointed Mass signals. The minister warns shortly before the Consecration and rings three times, or continuously, at each elevation; the Missal also provides a warning when faithful are to communicate.

Reader note. Recognize the prepared bell and learn its assigned cues; avoid accidental ringing while carrying or replacing it.

Lavabo basin*pelvicula*

The lavabo basin is the small basin that receives the water when the celebrant washes his fingertips at the Offertory Lavabo. At the Offertory Lavabo the basin receives the water used when the celebrant washes his fingertips; at Solemn Mass the acolytes minister it with the water cruet and manuterge.

Reader note. Carry the bowl level at the appointed cue, keep it under the washing fingers, and return it without improvising disposal.

Candle lighter and extinguisher*instrumentum ad candelas accendendas et exstinguendas*

One secular 1902 patent shows a long-shaft practical tool combining a taper tube for lighting elevated candles with a separate branch ending in an extinguisher bell; it is material-culture evidence, not a Roman prescription or proof of Catholic prevalence.

Reader note. Recognize this as practical/local equipment only when an adult assigns it; the plate supplies no ignition, approach, wick-treatment, or extinguishing procedure.

Communion plate*patina*

The Communion plate is the plate placed beneath communicants' chins, distinct from the celebrant's paten. The 1962 Missal names a distinct patina placed beneath communicants' chins and directs the celebrant to put any fragments found on it into the chalice.

Reader note. When assigned, hold the Communion plate level beneath the communicant's chin; never substitute or handle the priest's paten.

Altar cruet*Latin term not asserted*

One cruet



Wine-and-water

pair

An altar cruet is a small pouring vessel prepared to supply wine or water for the Mass; two are ordinarily prepared together for the wine-and-water service. The pair is prepared near the altar for the Offertory and later ablutions.

Reader note. The same basic vessel form may contain wine or water; identify the contents from the church's rehearsed markings and arrangement.

Elevation torch*intortitium*

Fortescue distinguishes footless elevation torches, which cannot stand alone and are stored in a rack, from the acolytes' footed carried candlesticks. Torchbearers take lighted torches in the sacristy and bring them to the sanctuary at the Sanctus for the Elevation service; this is not the entrance use of the acolytes' candlesticks.

Local sacristy signal bell*campanula*

A local sacristy signal bell is a small bell used in some churches at the ministers' departure. The checked sources describe local or usual practice in many churches, not a universal 1962 requirement.

Reader note. This is a local departure signal, not the altar bells: use it only at the cue and by the method assigned in this church.

Processional cross*cruz processionalis*

Fortescue identifies the processional cross as a crucifix fixed to a long carrying staff that cannot stand alone.

Incense boat and spoon*navicula; cochlear*

The 1962 Missal names a cochlear ministered with the incense boat when incense is imposed at the checked Solemn-Mass stations.

Reader note. Recognize the boat as the loose-incense container and the spoon as its separate transfer tool; keep the set together. A lay holder or handoff is local training, because the checked Solemn-Mass rubric names the deacon ministering it to the celebrant.

Thurible*thuribulum*

The 1962 Missal names the thuribulum and thuriferarius in the checked Solemn-Mass and sung-Mass incense loci.

Reader note. Distinguish the three bowl-support chains from the separate central lid chain; rehearse recognition only with a cold empty vessel, and use the hot thurible only in the appointed trained route.

Amice
amictus



The amice is the first vestment in the 1962 Missal's ordinary priestly vesting sequence. It belongs to the ordinary priestly vesture for Mass at the 1962 horizon.

Reader note. Recognize the amice as the first layer. Offer or arrange it only under the celebrant's or local ceremonial direction.

Alb
alba



The alb is the long linen vestment put on after the amice. It belongs to the ordinary priestly vesture for Mass at the 1962 horizon.

Reader note. Recognize the alb as the second layer. In the exact Missal branch a minister raises and arranges it while presenting the cincture from behind; do not generalize that action beyond direction.

Cincture
cingulum



The cincture is the girdle fastened over the alb at the waist. It belongs to the ordinary priestly vesture for Mass at the 1962 horizon.

Reader note. Recognize the cincture and the exact minister-assisted branch; present or arrange it only under direction.

Maniple
manipulus



The maniple is the short vestment band worn on the priest's left arm. It is part of ordinary priestly Mass vesture; the 1962 General Rubrics distinguish the cope branch, in which the maniple is not worn.

Reader note. Recognize the short left-arm band and keep it distinct from the longer stole; assist only under direction.

Priest's stole
stola



The priest's stole is the long narrow neck-worn vestment put on after the maniple. It belongs to the ordinary priestly vesture for Mass at the 1962 horizon.

Reader note. Recognize the priest's long stole and crossed-front arrangement; offer or arrange it only under direction.

Chasuble
planeta seu casula



The chasuble is the outer priestly vestment put on last for Mass. The 1962 General Rubrics direct the priest always to use the planeta or casula at Mass; they separately abolish folded chasubles and the broad stole.

Reader note. Recognize the chasuble as the final outer layer; present or arrange it only under direction.

Deacon's stole*stola*

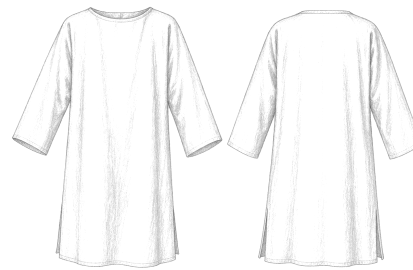
The deacon's stole is the long narrow vestment worn diagonally from the left shoulder under the right arm. At the 1962 horizon the deacon retains the stole and dalmatic; the folded chasuble and broad stole are expressly no longer used.

Reader note. Recognize the deacon by the stole running from left shoulder to right side; assist with it only under direction.

Dalmatic*dalmatica*

The dalmatic is the deacon's outer Mass vestment, worn over the alb and diagonal stole. The 1962 General Rubrics retain the deacon's dalmatic while expressly discontinuing folded chasubles and the broad stole.

Reader note. Recognize the dalmatic as the deacon's outer Mass vestment; present or arrange it only under direction.

Tunicle*tunicella*

The tunicle is the subdeacon's outer Mass vestment. The 1962 General Rubrics retain the subdeacon's tunicle while expressly discontinuing folded chasubles and the broad stole.

Reader note. Recognize the tunicle as the subdeacon's outer Mass vestment; present or arrange it only under direction.

Aspergillum*aspergillum*

An aspergillum is a holy-water sprinkler; checked sources document brush-ended and perforated hollow-globe forms, and the plate shows the latter. In the named Asperges ceremony, the sprinkler is dipped into holy water, handed by the deacon to the priest, and used by the priest for the sprinkling.

Eucharistic ombrellino*umbrella*

The Eucharistic ombrellino is the small one-staff umbrella form, distinct both from the larger processional baldachin and from the institutional basilical conopaeum. In that appointed public route, this canopy serves over the priest who carries the Blessed Sacrament; its availability clause does not make it a required ordinary Mass object.

Reader note. Recognize this object only in a specifically appointed public Communion, Viaticum, or transfer route; the plate creates no ordinary Mass assignment.

Portable holy-water vessel*vas aquae benedictae*

A portable metal vessel holds holy water for use with the aspergillum in the named Asperges ceremony.

How to use the pictures

Read name, picture, and note together.

Each entry gives an English name and, where the checked record supplies one, a Latin headword. A **Reader note** marks the preparation or recognition boundary supported for this audience; it is not a general direction for every ceremony or sacristy.

Representative, not universal.

Drawings teach recognition, not universal dimensions, ornament, material, color, folding, storage, or arrangement. Status and use remain limited to the ceremony, minister, condition, privilege, or local assignment stated.

Scope. This edition includes only the source-audited objects admitted for its named audience; it is not the family's complete inventory. It is a Triptych study reference, not an official liturgical book or local ceremonial direction. The governing books and competent local direction control actual preparation and handling.

LOOK ◇ NAME ◇ COMPARE

Follow the pictured relationship; do not infer an unprinted one.

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