

Liturgical Living: Sacred Space in the Home



In our homes, we have clearly designated places for our various activities: eating, sleeping, relaxing, entertaining, recreating, etc. But do our homes have a sacred space to lift our mind and eyes to God?

The symbols and images in our homes communicate who we love and what we value. Just as we display framed photos of the family and friends that we love and places we have enjoyed spending our time, our homes should reflect our love of God.

Beyond the obvious crucifix, we can create a sacred space in our homes that invites prayerful living and enhances our devotional practices. Many people call this sacred space a home altar or shrine.

When it comes to choosing the perfect location for your home shrine, there are two main considerations. Do you want the space to be in a quiet, peaceful area where you can pray and focus without distractions? Or do you prefer the home shrine to be in a central area of the house where it will be seen throughout the day?

The size of the sacred space doesn't matter. You can set up your home shrine on a small table or mantle. If you have really limited space, consider using a windowsill or a wall-mounted shelf, like the one pictured on the right.



Setting up a home shrine also does not have to be an expensive endeavor. You may already have many items on hand that you can use for the space. Some items to consider adding: a Holy water bottle; Catholic icon or art; statue of Our Lady; a statue of image of your favorite Saint; a rosary; a Catholic Bible; prayer cards and/or prayer book; candles or flowers.

If you have children in the house, be sure to make the space welcoming for them. Include some Catholic picture books, a basket for their rosaries, and images of their favorite Saints.

When creating a home shrine, the most important thing is to create a sacred space that draws you into daily prayer and brings you closer to God.

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)