

## Lesson 12

# Church Items and Liturgical Year



**Vestments** are special garments that are worn during the Mass. Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Altar Servers wear specific liturgical vestments that demonstrate their role and function at Mass. The following chart and diagrams illustrate the various vestments and their names.

Vestments			
			
Alb	Stole	Chasuble	Cassock
White Linen From albus which means white (like an egg). Signifies purity of priests	A long band of material worn around the neck. The priest kisses this to signify that Christ is present. Also symbolizes a yolk. Signifies authority of Priests	Means "little house". Is the outergarment. Signifies the love that priest have (their authority should be "hidden" in love	Has 33 buttons. Traditional daily garment for Priests

## The Bishop's Vestments

### The cassock

The bishop wears a purple cassock that belts at the waist. A cassock is a long robe, which often has buttons down the front or side.

### The alb

Over this, a bishop wears an alb, a white tunic with sleeves that covers the body from the neck to the ankles.

### The chasuble

On top of the alb, for the celebration of Eucharist, a bishop generally wears a chasuble. This is a circular garment that envelops the body. The colour of the chasuble changes with the seasons and Holy days of the Church Year.

### The cope

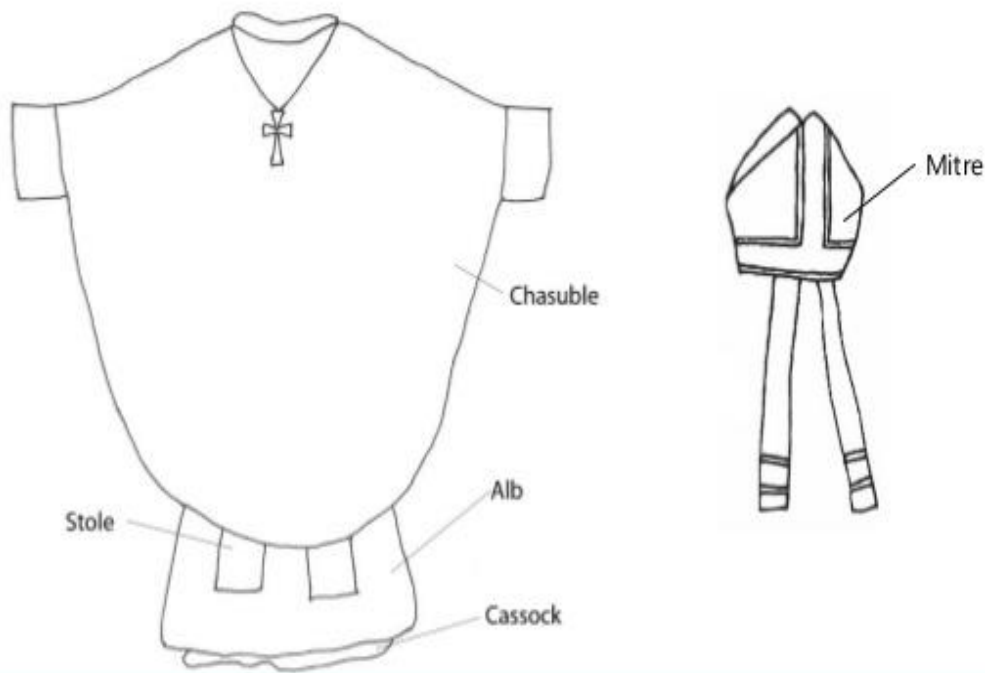
If the service is not a Eucharist, the bishop will most often wear a cope, a long cloak, open in front and fastened at the breast with a band or clasp.

### The stole

If the bishop is celebrating a Eucharist, he will wear a stole around his neck (just like your priest). Like the chasuble, the colour of the stole tells you the 'season' of the Church year.

### The mitre

The bishop will usually wear a mitre, a pointed hat that symbolizes the point of flame that the disciples, who became apostles, received at the first Pentecost. We remember that the bishop is a successor to these apostles.





Pectoral  
cross



Miter  
and ring



Crosier



Pallium

## Did you Know?

- When a bishop is inside his own diocese, the crozier is carried with the curve facing out; when he is outside his own diocese, the curve faces in.





## PRAYERS DURING PRIESTLY VESTING AND THE MEANING OF VESTMENTS

As the priest prepares to dress himself in the sacred garments for Mass, it has been a long-standing tradition in the Church that he recites the following prayers:

### Washing of hands

*Give virtue to my hands, O Lord, that being cleansed from all stain I might serve you with purity of mind and body.*

- 1 AMICE** – a rectangular neck cloth which serves to protect the valuable chasuble and stole, but is used only if the alb does not cover the ordinary clothing at the neck.

### Prayer

*Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation upon my head, to repel the assaults of the devil.*

- 2 ALB** – a long white garment worn by the priest to represent the new and immaculate vestment that has been received through baptism.

### Prayer

*Cleanse me, O Lord, and purify my heart, that washed in the Blood of the Lamb I may attain everlasting joy.*

- 3 CINCTURE** – a cord used as a belt to tighten the alb symbolizing the virtue of chastity and continence, and is the same color as the chasuble.

### Prayer

*Gird me, O Lord, with the cincture of purity and quench in me the fire of concupiscence, that the virtue of continence and chastity may remain in me.*

- 4 STOLE** – a long narrow band, several inches wide and about 80 inches long (and of the same color as the chasuble) which is worn as a sign that the priest is serving in his official liturgical role.

### Prayer

*Return to me, O Lord, the stole of immortality, which I have lost in the sin of my first parent; and although I, unworthy, approach Thy sacred mystery, grant to me, nevertheless, everlasting joy.*

- 5 CHASUBLE** – the final vestment of the priest that is worn over all the others and symbolizes the virtue of charity and the yoke of unselfish love.

### Prayer

*O Lord, who hast said, My yoke is easy and My burden light; grant that I may be able so to bear it, that I may obtain Thy grace. Amen.*

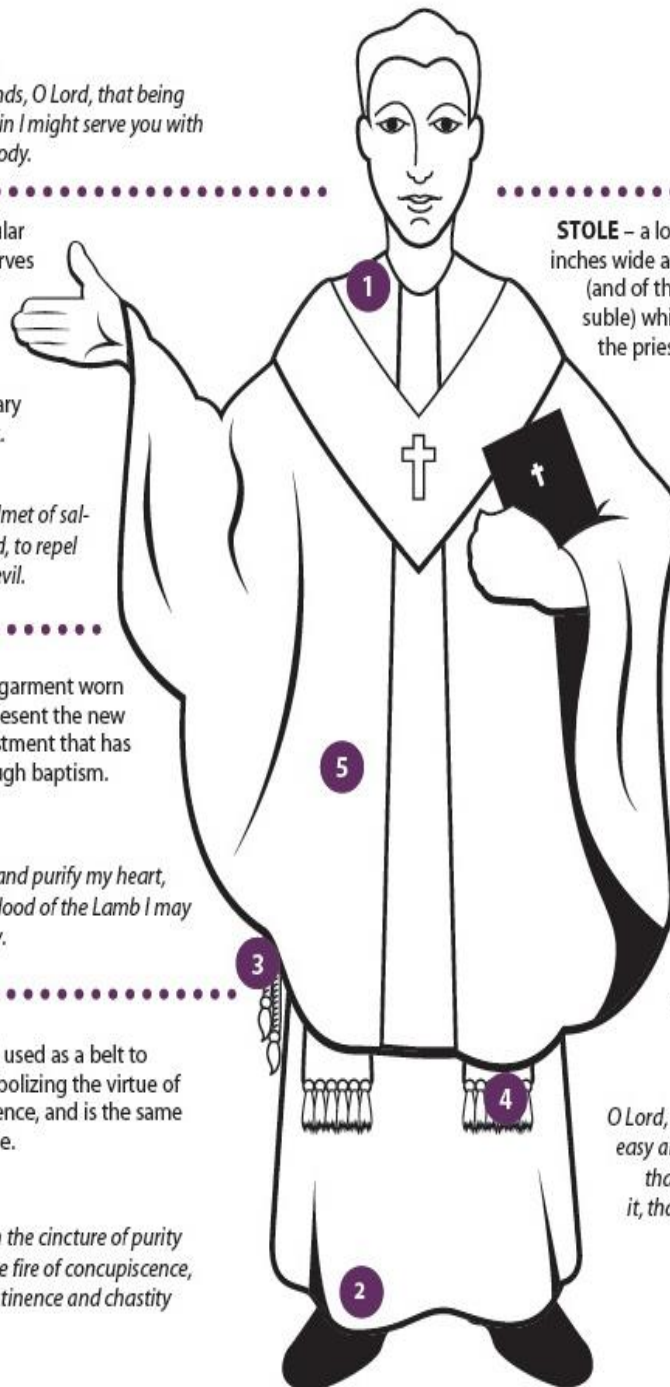






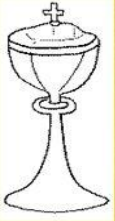





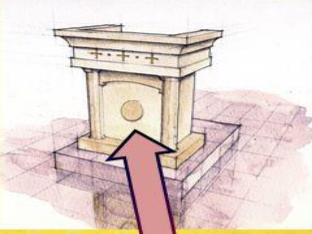
Illustration by Nathan Runda

**Vessels** are the instruments used for the celebration of the Mass. **Linens** are the cloth fabrics which are used on the altar and for the distribution of the Eucharist. The following charts and photos present the various vessels, linens, and items used during Mass.

## Vessels and Linens

						
<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Paten</b>	<b>Purificator</b>	<b>Pall</b>	<b>Corporal</b>	<b>Cruets</b>	<b>Ciborium</b>
Most important Vessel ; holds the precious blood	Plate- like dish that the consecrated hosts are placed on during the Mass	Used by the Priest to cleanse the chalice	Stiff white square of linen placed on top of chalice to prevent anything from falling in	White linen cloth placed on the altar beneath the Paten and the Chalice	Vessels to hold the water and the wine BEFORE consecration . Can also hold oil (for Sacraments other than Eucharist.	Chalice shaped vessel used to hold the consecrated hosts when they are placed in the tabernacle

## Vessels and Linens

			
<b>Pyx</b>	<b>Monstrance</b>	<b>Luna/Lunette</b>	<b>Ambo</b>
Holds the Eucharist when it is being taken to the sick.	Holds the Eucharist when being displayed for adoration.	Crystal glass frame that holds the host. Crescent shaped gold Clip = lunette	Where the readings are read from. Should resemble the material of the altar to connect the focus to being "fed" by the word and the sacrifice.



## Thurible and Boat

A thurible is the incense burner used at Mass. It hangs from chains so it can be swung to incense people and things.

The boat is where the incense is stored until it is placed within the thurible.

[TraditionalAltarBoy.wordpress.com](http://TraditionalAltarBoy.wordpress.com)



## ASPERGILLUM & HOLY WATER BUCKET

The Aspergillum, or sprinkler, usually looks like a ball on a handle. The priest puts the Aspergillum in a container of Holy Water, so that water will get inside the Aspergillum through little holes. The priest then walks through the church and blesses everyone by sprinkling them using the Aspergillum. This is used on special celebrations.



*Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

*Psalm 51:9*

## SANCTUARY

- A sacred part of the church
- The ambo, altar and presidential chair are all found here



## ALTAR

- The table where the Eucharist is celebrated
- Is a symbol of (and represents) Jesus Christ



## AMBO



- Also called a lectern
- The place where the readers, deacon and priest proclaim the readings during Mass



## PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR



- The chair on which the presider sits





## CREDENCE TABLE



- Kept to one side in the sanctuary
- All the things needed for Mass are kept there when they are not needed at the altar



## SACRISTY



- The room where the priest and servers prepare themselves for Mass



# The Liturgical Year

## (The Year in the Church)

Each new Liturgical Year begins with the Season of Advent. The last Sunday celebration in each Liturgical Year is the Feast of Christ the King. The Liturgical Year consists of various seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. Each season has its own theme. Various feast days are celebrated within these seasons. The Liturgical Year is as follows:

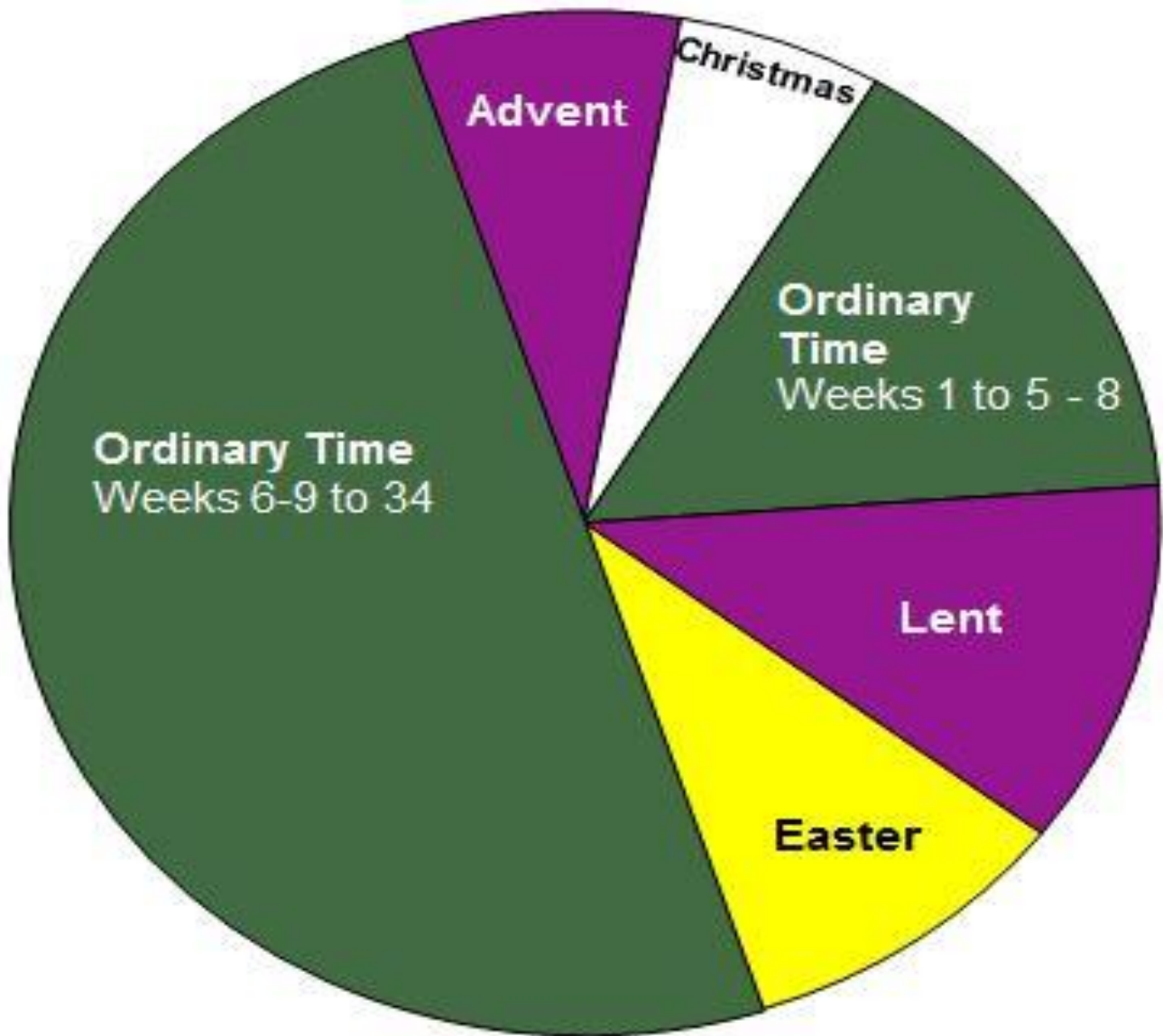
Advent  
Christmas Season  
Ordinary Time  
Lent  
Holy Week  
Easter Season  
Ordinary Time

Liturgical Colors play a major role in the Church because they give us a visual reference of the overall theme of the season. There are five liturgical colors: green, white (*or gold*), violet, rose, and red.

Green	Symbolizes hope and life. It is worn in Ordinary Time.
White (Gold)	Symbolizes rejoicing, purity of soul, and the Glory of God. It is worn during the Christmas and Easter Seasons, as well as, when celebrating Feasts for Mary, virgins, holy men and women, and doctors of the Church.
Violet	Symbolizes repentance, sacrifice, and preparation. It is worn during the seasons of Advent and Lent.
Rose	Symbolizes joy ( <i>that we are half way through a period of preparation</i> ). It is worn at the midpoint of Advent ( <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</i> ) and Lent ( <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i> ).
Red	Symbolizes the shedding of blood and the burning fire of God's love. It is worn when celebrating Martyrs ( <i>those who gave up their lives for the faith</i> ) and for feasts of the Holy Spirit, as well as, for Palm ( <i>Passion</i> ) Sunday.

The Liturgical Year is usually visualized in a circular diagram utilizing the various liturgical colors. There are three Liturgical Cycles: A, B, and C. Each cycle focuses on a different Evangelist (*Gospel writer*): Cycle A focuses on Matthew; Cycle B concentrates on Mark; and Cycle C highlights Luke. The following diagram presents a generic liturgical year:





## The Significance of Each Season in the Liturgical Year

### Advent

The 4-week period in which we prepare ourselves for the Coming of Christ. There are two Comings of Christ that are celebrated during Advent. The first two weeks of Advent focus on the Second Coming of Christ; this is when Christ will come again at the end of the world. The last two weeks of Advent change the focus to the First Coming of Christ; this is when Christ entered the world as a human child.

### Christmas

This is the time period in which the Church celebrates the Nativity of Jesus Christ, the feast of the Holy Family (*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*), the feast of the Epiphany (*the coming of the three wise men*), and ends with the Baptism of the Lord.

## Lent

The 40-day period in which we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Easter Season. Lent is a season of conversion that begins on Ash Wednesday. It is a time to focus on Penance. One should be extra vigilant in practicing the **Lenten Disciplines: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.**

## Holy Week

This is the week that begins with Palm (*Passion*) Sunday and ends with the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This is the holiest week of the liturgical year since it allows us to enter into the events of the Paschal Mystery (*the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord*). Holy Week includes the **Triduum**, which consists of Holy Thursday (*the celebration of the Last Supper*), Good Friday (*the celebration of Christ's Crucifixion*), and Holy Saturday. The Triduum ends with the start of the Easter Vigil Mass.

## Easter

The 50-day period of celebrating the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. The Resurrection is the central mystery of the Christian faith. The Ascension of the Lord is celebrated within this season. The Easter season ends with the celebration of Pentecost, which is the birthday of the Church since the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles.

## Ordinary Time

This season is broken into two parts. The first portion begins after the Christmas Season and ends with the start of Lent. The second portion begins after the Easter Season and ends with the close of the Liturgical Year. Ordinary Time is a period for us to celebrate our call to follow Jesus as his modern day disciples. When we give our lives over to Jesus, they become extraordinary.

# The Liturgical Year

- Each season in the Liturgical calendar has a particular **theme.**
- Each season has a particular liturgical **color.**
- Each season concentrates on different parts of the **Bible.**
- Each season has different religious practices, and **symbols.**

