COMMON VOCABULARY

**Altar** - table; the place where the bread and wine are blessed and broken

**Ambo** – lectern, pulpit or reading stand where the Word of God is proclaimed

**Book of the Gospels** - large book placed on the altar; contains only Gospel readings

**Chalice** – large, more ornate cup used by priest during Eucharistic Prayer

**Ciborium** - the gold container used to hold hosts in the tabernacle

**Corporal** - like a place mat, it catches any crumbs

**Credence Table** - small table used by the Servers to hold items needed for Mass

**Cruets** – small glass containers used to hold wine and water

**Cups** – used for the Blood of Christ during communion

**Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist** – one who helps distribute Communion

**Finger bowl** - used to catch water used by priest to wash his hands during the preparation of the gifts

**Finger towel** - small towel priest uses to dry his hands

**Flagon (or Carafe)** – like a pitcher; a flagon/carafe holds the wine brought up in procession

**Lectionary** - book containing all of the readings for the Mass

**Lector** – reader

**Paschal Candle** - Easter candle; the very large candle that we light during the Easter season (and in the Basilica, for funerals and baptisms)

**Paten** - plate; holds hosts during Eucharistic Prayer

**Presider** - leader of prayer; also known as the celebrant.

**Presider’s Chair** - the seat where the priest who is presiding sits

**Processional cross** - cross used to lead the procession

**Purificator** - like a napkin, used to wipe cups during communion

**Sacramentary** - book containing the priest’s prayers (it has tabs)

**Sacristry** - the room where the vestments and vessels are kept, and where the priest and other ministers get ready for Mass

**Sanctuary** - the area of the church that contains the altar, ambo and presider’s chair

**Tabernacle** - where the body of Christ is kept after communion; there is a red candle (Sanctuary Lamp) next to it.

**Liturgical Colors**: Priest’s vestments and all altar cloths should reflect these colors. Look in the Ordo if you’re not sure!

**Ordinary Time**: Green

**Advent**: Violet

**Christmas**: White

**Lent**: Violet

**Easter**: White

**Red**: Feasts of martyrs, apostles, Pentecost & Passion/Palm Sunday