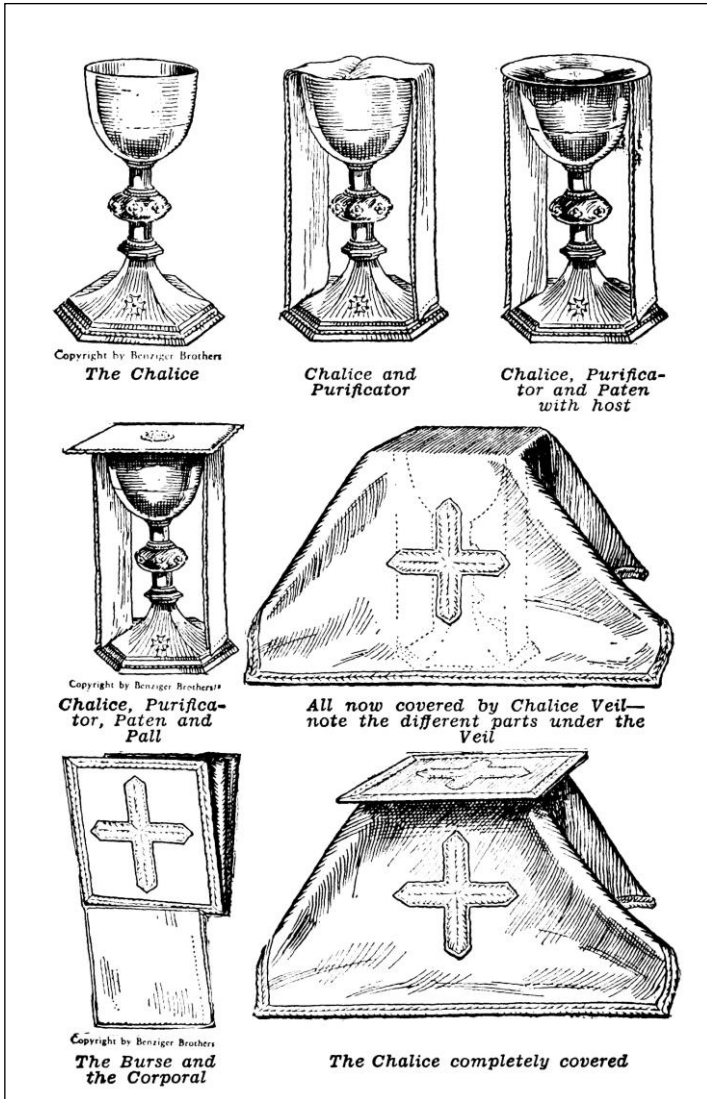


Tridentine Community News

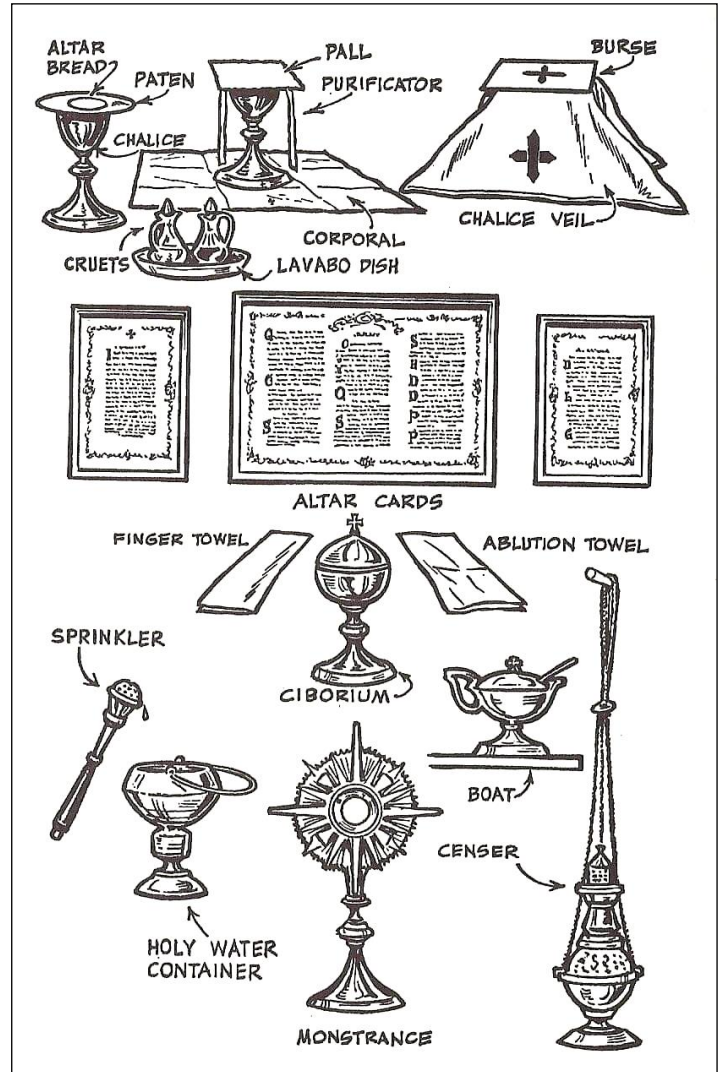
February 6, 2022 – Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Educational Infographics on the Traditional Mass: Chalice Veiling and Altar Appurtenances

Our second installment in this series presents graphics which explain how a chalice is veiled, along with other items used at the altar.



Why veil the chalice at all? In the Traditional Mass, the sacred is veiled to emphasize its distinction from profane, or mundane, objects. In addition to the chalice, which holds the Precious Blood; the ciborium, which holds the consecrated Hosts for the faithful; the altar table; the tabernacle; the priest himself; the Communion Rail; and even the altar missal stand are veiled to set them apart. By taking extra care to adorn these objects, we are showing respect for their significant roles in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This concept predates the Christian era; recall how the High Priest of the Temple in Jerusalem was the only one permitted to enter the (veiled) Holy of Holies.



The sprinkler is also known as the *Aspergillum*. The holy water bucket/container is also called the *Aspersorium*. The censer is also known as the thurible. The altar cards are essentially large cheat sheets with regularly used prayers of the Mass that may be easier for the priest to read straight-on versus turning his head to read them at an angle from the altar missal.

The finger towel is brought to the altar by the altar servers for the priest to use to dry his fingers after the *Lavabo* at the Offertory. The abluition towel is kept to the right side of the tabernacle, along with an abluition cup filled with water; they are used to purify the fingers of priests assisting the celebrant with distribution of Holy Communion.

You may have noticed additional small sheets of paper on the altar at our Masses in Detroit and Windsor. Those are additional cheat sheets containing the full conclusions of the Orations (e.g.: *Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum Fílium tuum...*), which are not spelled out in the altar missal; the incensing prayers, which are not on the altar cards; the *Aufer a nobis* when the priest first ascends the altar; the notes for the *incípit*, or chanted beginning, of the *Glória*; and a few other prayers.