

TOUR GUIDES' SCRIPT

Exploring Sacred Space

(NOTE TO TOUR GUIDES: ~~There are five stations in this tour of the church. Each station features interesting highlights about the different parts of the church. Each church has its own unique characteristics and stories. Adapt and add to the information in this packet to personalize this tour for your church. Questions to stimulate dialogue and discussion and things you can do to make the tour more interesting are suggested. This tour features the following stations.~~)

Lisa
~~Station #1:~~ **Baptismal Font Area**
 Baptismal font
 Holy water fonts
 Paschal (Easter) candle
 Place of assembly
 Holy oils

Mary Ellen / FR LeRoy
~~Station #2:~~ **Sanctuary**
 The altar (Eucharistic Table)
 Altar cloth, paten, chalice
 The lectern (ambo) and
 Lectionary
 Presider's chair and
 Sacramentary
 Cross or crucifix

Lisa

Mary Ellen @ St Paul's / Lisa @ St Peter's
~~Station #3:~~ **Tabernacle Area**
 Tabernacle
 Sanctuary lamp
 Credence table

Mary Ellen / FR LeRoy
~~Station #4:~~ **Sacristy**
 Vestments
 Preparations for the Liturgy of the Eucharist
 Censer

Lisa
~~Station #5:~~ **Around the Church**
 Reconciliation rooms
 Stations of the Cross
 Statues, stained glass windows, paintings, parish patron saint

2 GROUPS

Lisa's group will start at the FONT

Mary Ellen / FR's group will start at the altar

(If the group is small, all the families may move from station to station in a single group. Larger groups may be split into five smaller sections, each beginning at a different station. If this is the case, be sure to extend a special welcome to the first group that visits your station.)

Welcome to our church! Our church provides a place for our parish family to come together for prayer and worship. Our church is the place where we celebrate the Eucharist. We hope you'll enjoy getting to know more about this special place of worship.

The areas are split up to make explanations easier, but it's okay if there's ^{some} crossover of info shared.

Mary Ellen /
Fr. LeRoy's
Group

Every altar has
a relic in it -
show where it is +
talk about what
a relic is.

Here's a good
summary of info
about altar relics:

[http://procaritate
veritatis.blogspot.com/
2011/07/relics-in-altars.
html?m=1](http://procaritate
veritatis.blogspot.com/
2011/07/relics-in-altars.
html?m=1)

~~Sanctuary~~ Sanctuary

The Altar (Eucharistic Table)

The altar is a holy table. We gather around this table of the Lord to celebrate the Eucharistic feast. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we remember Jesus' death and his resurrection. At the Last Supper, Jesus broke bread, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you." Then Jesus took the cup of wine and said, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood." Jesus says these same words to us every time we celebrate the Eucharist.

When we celebrate the Eucharist, we place an altar cloth on top of the altar—just as we place a tablecloth on our table at home for special meals.

When we celebrate Eucharist, we use a plate or paten (*paten* is the Latin word for "plate" or "platter") to hold the bread. We use a cup or chalice (the Latin word for "cup") to hold the wine.

(Invite the families to hold the plate and the cup.)

See Attached Sacred Vessels/objects
for summaries of these things.

In addition to the items mentioned
in the script, also show a pyx +
ask if the children/parents have
seen one used at Mass before

~~Activity~~: Tabernacle Area - MaryEllen@ ST Paul's
Lisa @ St Peter's

Tabernacle

The tabernacle is the place where we keep the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus present under the appearance of bread that is consecrated during our celebration of Eucharist. The word *tabernacle* comes from the Latin word meaning *tent*. It is an ancient tradition of the church to keep some of the consecrated eucharistic bread in a place of reverence and to bring this bread to people in our parish who are too sick to join us for worship. Often, the tabernacle is placed in a eucharistic chapel. The tabernacle area is a place where parishioners can come for quiet prayer and meditation.

Tell me, does anyone know what the word *reverence* means? (*If the children don't know, ask the parents to respond.*)

What are some ways we can show reverence when we are in church?

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp is a red candle that burns in the tabernacle area. This candle is always lit to show that the eucharistic presence of Jesus is in the tabernacle. The use of this candle comes from an ancient Jewish custom of having a light burning always in the Temple. This candle reminds us that this is a holy place.

Sometimes you will see other candles in Catholic churches. Votive (prayer) candles are found in special places in front of a statue or shrine. When people visit a church, they will sometimes light a candle as a sign that their prayers continue even after they have left the church.

Does anyone know someone in need of our prayers right now? (*Invite them to respond. After each response, pray a simple prayer of intercession for the person in need. For example, "Dear God, Jamie's grandmother is sick. Please help her get better. May she feel comfort from all those who love her. We pray to the Lord. . ."*)

Tell me, what special prayers to Jesus do you know? What prayers do you pray when you pray quietly?

(*Invite parents and children to spend some time in quiet prayer.*)

Credence Table

The credence table is a table where the cups and plates for the Eucharist are kept until they are needed for Eucharist.

(*Invite questions from the group. When the bell rings, send this group to Station #2.*)

~~Activity~~: Sacristy Area

Sacristy

The sacristy is a busy place before our celebration of liturgy begins. Before liturgy, the presider puts on his vestments here. The vestments are different colors symbolizing the different seasons of the church year.

(Show the different vestments and tell when each color is worn:

Advent: Violet

Christmas: White

Lent: Purple

Easter: White

Pentecost: Red

Ordinary Time: Green)

Many of the people who help us celebrate the Eucharist come to the sacristy before Mass.

Eucharistic ministers may arrive in the sacristy before Mass to cut the eucharistic bread or to prepare the hosts and the wine.

The lector can often be found in the sacristy practicing the readings for the day.

Servers come to the sacristy to prepare the church for our celebration of Eucharist by lighting candles and setting the gifts of bread and wine in place.

Eucharistic ministers, lectors, and servers all help with the celebration of Eucharist. In what other ways do people help with the celebration of Eucharist?

Ushers greet and seat people/ help with the collection

Musicians help lead the community in song

Members help to clean the church

Censer

In the sacristy you will find a censer. A censer is used to burn incense. Incense is burned at funerals and on special church holidays. As we watch the incense rise, we are reminded that our prayers also rise to God in heaven.

(Invite questions from the group. ~~When the bell rings, send this group to Station #5.)~~

Sacred Vestments

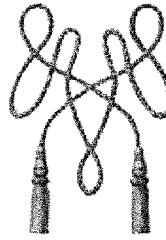


Alb

Symbolizes: Purity.

A long white robe worn at liturgical celebrations by the Celebrant, Deacon, and Altar Servers.

It is a reminder of the baptismal garment worn when the new Christian "Put on Christ."

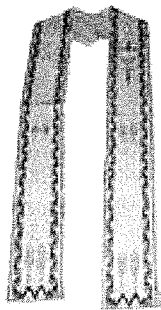


Cincture

Symbolizes: Chastity

A long cord used for fastening albs at the waist. It holds the loose-fitting type of alb in place and is used to adjust it to proper length.

It is usually white, although the liturgical color of the day may be used.



Priest Stole

Symbolizes: the clerical office, immortality, and the Yoke of Christ

The stole, matching the liturgical color, is a long, scarf-like vestment worn over the alb and under the

Chasuble. It is the mark of the Office of the Priest. A priest wears it around the neck, hanging down in front.

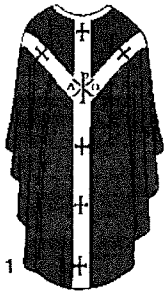


Deacon Stole

Symbolizes: the clerical office, immortality, and the Yoke of Christ

The stole, matching the liturgical color, is a long, scarf-like vestment worn over the alb and under the Dalmatic.

It is the mark of the Office of the Deacon. A Deacon wears it over his left shoulder, fastening it at his right side.

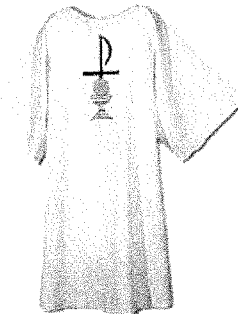


Chasuble

Symbolizes: Charity and the Yoke of Christ.

The sleeveless outer garment, slipped over the head, hanging down from the shoulders covering the alb and stole of the priest.

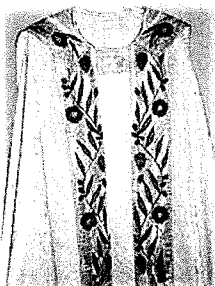
It is the proper Mass vestment for the main celebrant and its color varies according to the feast.



Dalmatic

Symbolizes: Charity, Justice, and the sufferings of Christ

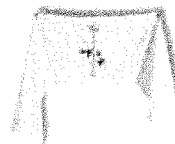
A loose-fitting robe with open sides and wide sleeves worn by a deacon on more solemn feasts. Its color varies according to the feast.



Cope

The cope is a large cape worn by celebrant in processions and other sacred actions, in keeping with the rubrics proper to each rite.

For example, Baptisms, and during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



Humeral Veil

A long cloth, usually white, which goes over the celebrant's shoulders and covers his arms. This is attached by a clasp in the front.

The veil is used to hold the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance during Benediction.

Sacred Vessels/Objects



Chalice

The large cup used by the celebrant at Mass when he consecrates the wine into the Blood of Christ.



Paten

A round metal plate used by the celebrant at Mass when he consecrates the host (bread) into the Body of Christ.



Ciborium

A vessel used to hold the Hosts which will be used for communion. They are also used to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in the

Tabernacle.



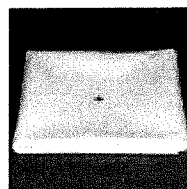
Flagon

The bottle or pitcher like vessel used to hold the wine which will be consecrated at Mass for the communion of the people. It is brought forth with the gifts.



Communion Cups

Used at communion for the people to receive the precious Blood of Jesus. They are kept on the Credence Table and brought to the Altar at the Preparation of the Gifts.



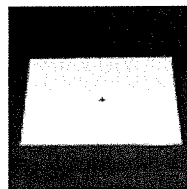
Corporal

A white linen cloth on which are placed the vessels containing the bread and wine during Mass which will become the Body and Blood of Christ.



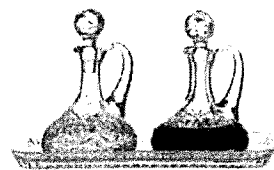
Purificator

A small rectangular white cloth used to clean the chalice and paten after Communion. It is different in appearance from the corporal, because it is not square.



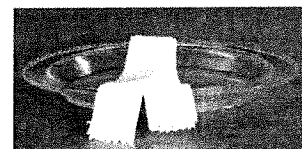
Pall

The stiff, square, white cover that is placed over the paten when it is on the chalice.



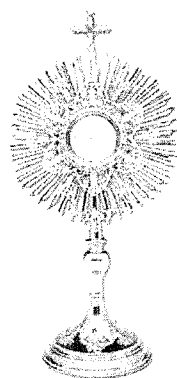
Cruets and Tray

Cruets contain the wine and the water used during the Mass. The Tray is used when water is poured over the Priests hands.



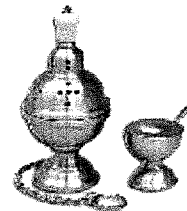
Lavabo Bowl & Towel

A dish called a 'Lavabo bowl' and the small linen cloth called a 'Finger Towel', used by the priest to symbolically wash his hands before beginning the Consecration.



Monstrance

A sacred vessel designed to expose the consecrated Host to the congregation either for adoration in church or carrying in procession, particularly on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

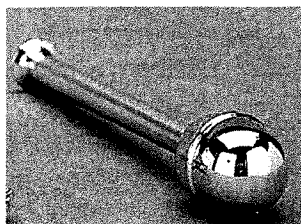


Thurible & Boat

The Thurible (Censer) is used at solemn occasions to incense the altar, Gospel, bread and wine after the offertory, the priest, and congregation and Eucharist.

The Boat holds the incense until it is placed in the Thurible by the celebrant. Both are used during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The fragrant smoke of incense symbolizes our prayers rising to Heaven and purifying what it touches.



Aspergillum

An aspergillum is a liturgical implement used to sprinkle Holy Water.



Aspersorium

Bucket that holds Holy Water.

Lisa's group

~~Introduction~~: Baptismal Font Area

Baptismal Font

The flowing waters of the baptismal font remind us that we enter the Church through Baptism. Baptism is a sacrament of welcome and belonging. When we are baptized, we are welcomed into our community of faith.

How many of you were baptized here in this church? How about the rest of you—where were you baptized? *(Invite families to respond.)*

Being baptized means you are a follower of Jesus and that you will live your life as Jesus did.

What kinds of things can we do that show others we are followers of Jesus?

On Good Friday, the day we remember Jesus' death, the baptismal font is emptied. During the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, the font is refilled—a symbol of resurrection and life!

Holy Water Fonts

Near each of the entrances to our church you will find holy water fonts. These fonts are filled with water from the large baptismal font. When we enter the church, we dip a hand in the water and mark ourselves with the Sign of the Cross. This reminds us that all of us who are baptized are followers of Christ and members of the Church.

(Invite participants to dip a hand into the waters of the font and to sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross. Remind them to do this every time they enter the church to celebrate Eucharist. Talk about the need to be reverent.)

Easter Candle

The Easter candle is located near the baptismal font. This large candle is one of the many symbols of Christ's presence among us. Jesus is the light of the world! When you were baptized, your parents held a baptismal candle for you. Your baptismal candle was lit by the flame of the Easter candle.

Each year during the Easter Vigil, a new candle is placed here and is lit for the first time.

Place of Assembly

When we pass the baptismal font, we look toward the place of the assembly. This space is usually filled with benches or pews. The place of assembly looks beautiful when it is filled with God's people at prayer. When we come to church on Sunday, we see all the others who have come to worship and give thanks to God. These people are

part of our parish family. We welcome and greet one another. Then we gather around the altar table to celebrate the eucharistic meal.

What can we do to welcome others to our parish church?

Holy Oils, *Ambr*

The church uses three holy oils to anoint people on special occasions. (Show the families where your parish keeps the holy oils.) The oil of catechumens is used to bless and strengthen those who are preparing for baptism. The oil of the sick is used to anoint those in our parish who have serious illness and are in need of Jesus' healing. The holy chrism oil is used to anoint those celebrating the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. It is also used for the dedication of churches and eucharistic tables. You were anointed with the holy chrism oil when you were baptized.

(Invite the families to smell the sacred chrism.)

Invite questions from the group. ~~When the bell rings, send this group to Station #2.~~

Lectionary and Lectern (or ambo)

The Lectionary is a book that contains the readings from Scripture that are proclaimed at our celebration of the Eucharist. The Lectionary is not a Bible, but parts of the Bible are found in the Lectionary. The lector (reader at Mass) stands at the lectern (or ambo) to proclaim the readings of Sacred Scripture at Mass.

(Show the families the Lectionary. Demonstrate how the Lectionary is carried in procession and where the Lectionary is placed during Mass.)

The first reading during our celebration of Eucharist usually is taken from the Old Testament. The second reading, from the New Testament, tells about how people in the early Church taught others to be followers of Jesus. The third reading is from one of the four Gospels and tells us stories about the life and teachings of Jesus.

Who can tell me a story about Jesus that he or she heard at Mass? *(Invite responses.)*

It is important to remember that when we hear these stories proclaimed at Mass, God is speaking right to us today! When Jesus says, "Love one another as I have loved you," who is Jesus talking to? Tell me some ways we can show that we love one another.

Presider's Chair

The presider's chair is used by the priest who presides (leads the assembly) during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The special prayers the presider prays during Mass are found in the book called the Sacramentary.

(Show the families the Sacramentary. Open it to the beginning of any of the four Eucharistic Prayers [usually the pages have numbered tabs]. Be ready to read from the opening prayer shared by the priest and people.)

The Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer in the book known as the Sacramentary. You have heard this opening prayer many times before. Let's pray this prayer together. The priest begins with, "The Lord be with you." And we say, "And also with you."

(Continue with the next two invocations and responses.)

As we heard in these lines, this is a prayer of thanksgiving. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we give thanks for God's love and God's blessings to us.

What is something you are thankful for in your life?

The Crucifix or Processional Cross

The crucifix reminds us that Jesus loved us so much that he died for us. Three days after Jesus died, he rose from the dead. We believe that we will also rise from the dead. Some churches have a processional cross. The processional cross can be used to lead us in procession when we gather for worship. The cross reminds us that we are followers of Jesus.

Do you have a cross or crucifix in your home? Where else do you see crosses?

(Invite questions from the group. When the bell rings, send this group to Station #3.)

~~Activity 12~~ Tabernacle Area

Tabernacle

The tabernacle is the place where we keep the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus present under the appearance of bread that is consecrated during our celebration of Eucharist. The word *tabernacle* comes from the Latin word meaning *tent*. It is an ancient tradition of the church to keep some of the consecrated eucharistic bread in a place of reverence and to bring this bread to people in our parish who are too sick to join us for worship. Often, the tabernacle is placed in a eucharistic chapel. The tabernacle area is a place where parishioners can come for quiet prayer and meditation.

Tell me, does anyone know what the word *reverence* means? (*If the children don't know, ask the parents to respond.*)

What are some ways we can show reverence when we are in church?

Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp is a red candle that burns in the tabernacle area. This candle is always lit to show that the eucharistic presence of Jesus is in the tabernacle. The use of this candle comes from an ancient Jewish custom of having a light burning always in the Temple. This candle reminds us that this is a holy place.

Sometimes you will see other candles in Catholic churches. Votive (prayer) candles are found in special places in front of a statue or shrine. When people visit a church, they will sometimes light a candle as a sign that their prayers continue even after they have left the church.

Does anyone know someone in need of our prayers right now? (*Invite them to respond. After each response, pray a simple prayer of intercession for the person in need. For example, "Dear God, Jamie's grandmother is sick. Please help her get better. May she feel comfort from all those who love her. We pray to the Lord. ..."*)

Tell me, what special prayers to Jesus do you know? What prayers do you pray when you pray quietly?

(*Invite parents and children to spend some time in quiet prayer.*)

Credence Table

The credence table is a table where the cups and plates for the Eucharist are kept until they are needed for Eucharist.

(*Invite questions from the group. ~~When the bell rings, send this group to Station #12.~~*)

~~MINISTRANTS~~ Around the Church

Reconciliation Rooms

We celebrate the Sacrament of Penance in the reconciliation rooms. This sacrament celebrates God's healing forgiveness and love in our lives.

Stations of the Cross

Look around the walls of the church. You will find the 14 Stations of the Cross. These pictures tell of Jesus' journey from Pilate's house where he was condemned to death to the tomb in which he was buried. In some churches, a 15th station is added to remind us that Jesus rose from the dead.

(Point out some of the Stations of the Cross.)

Add information to this part of the session to personalize the tour for your own church.

Tell about when your parish church was built.

Tell the story of your parish patron saint.

Point out the stained glass windows or tell the stories of artwork or statues.

Invite questions from the group. ~~When the bell rings, send this group to Station #1 or, if there is only one group, have the group return to the original gathering place.~~