

Questions and Answers...
About Holy Objects present in a Church

1. What is the sign that one may expect to find in a church to indicate that the Blessed Sacrament is there present?
*To indicate the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in a church, that is, the real presence of God, the **sanctuary lamp** is kept burning near the tabernacle, in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved.*

2. What is a **tabernacle**?
*A **tabernacle**, or Eucharistic reserve, is a sacred receptacle where the Eucharist, or Blessed Sacrament,⁶⁰ is reserved in a church; it is intended as a worthy place to keep consecrated Hosts for the Communion of the sick and for Eucharistic worship outside of Mass.*

3. What is the name of the receptacle of water found at the entrance of a church, and how is it used?
*This receptacle is a holy **water font**. As one enters the church, he dips his fingertips into the font and blesses himself by making the sign of the cross; this action recalls the Trinity, the Cross of Christ, and our Baptism. The sign of the cross made with holy water renews our baptismal commitment and chases away evil influences.*

4. True or False. Holy water, incense, and a monstrance are three **sacramentals**.
False. While holy water and incense are considered to be sacramentals, the monstrance is a sacred vessel.

5. Before the Mass starts, only four objects should be found on the altar. Can you name these objects?
*The four objects to be found on the altar before Mass starts are the **altar cloth, two candles, and a crucifix**.*

6. In the entrance procession at the beginning of the Mass, a minister holds a book raised in front of him for everyone to see. What is this book?
*The book that is carried in the entrance procession and then placed on or near the altar is called the **Book of the Gospels**. It contains the official compilation of readings from the Gospel to be proclaimed by the priest or deacon during the Mass.*

60. See Part Five, Glossary: Blessed Sacrament, Eucharist, & Tabernacle. The first tabernacle was built by Moses to house the Ark of the Covenant (cf. Ex 25-40).

7. What are the three **sacred vessels** that the servers bring to the altar during the preparation of the gifts?

*The three sacred vessels that are brought to the altar at the time of the offertory are the **chalice**, which is used to consecrate the wine, the **paten**, which is used to consecrate the large host for the communion of the celebrating priest, and one or more **ciboria** containing small hosts to be consecrated for the communion of the faithful. At the time of communion, the priest may also bring to the altar a ciborium containing consecrated Hosts that are kept in the tabernacle.*^{60a}

8. What are the **other vessels** that the servers bring to the priest at the altar during the preparation of the gifts?

*The servers also bring the **two cruets** containing the water and wine to be used for the consecration, and then the **wash plate** for the rite of the washing of the hands of the priest.*

9. Name the three **sacred linens** that the servers bring to the altar with the sacred vessels during the preparation of the gifts, and describe how the priest uses each one of them.

The three sacred linens that are brought to the altar with the sacred vessels are:

- the **corporal**, which the priest places directly on the altar stone⁶¹ and on which he sets the sacred vessels for the consecration;
- the **pall**, which the priest uses to cover the chalice once the wine and water of the sacrifice have been poured; and
- the **purificator**, which the priest uses during the preparation of the chalice to wipe any drops of wine when pouring from the cruet; after his communion to wipe the Blood of Christ from the rim of the chalice; and during the purification of the vessels to wipe dry the sacred vessels. If the faithful receive communion under both species, the purificator is also used to wipe the rim of the chalice after each communicant drinks from the chalice.

10. What is the name of the **linen** used by the priest to dry his hands during the ritual of the washing of the hands at the time of the offertory?

*The **manuterge**, or hand towel, is the name of the linen used during the ritual of the washing of the hands.*

60a. Cf. GIRM [56h] 85: "It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest is bound to do, receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass."

61. Altar Stone: see Part Five, Church Norms, I- Arrangement and Furnishing of Churches, The Altar Stone.

11. What is the name of the **collection of scenes** that are mounted on the walls of churches, chapels, and sanctuaries?

*This collection is known as the '**Stations of the Cross**', and the scenes, or 'Stations', represent the **Passion and the Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ**. The 'Stations' are usually found hanging on the walls of the nave of churches - chapels and sanctuaries - presented in the form of paintings or low-reliefs. They may also be found outdoors on the grounds of churches or in cemeteries in the format of large sculptures or large low-reliefs.*

12. How many '**Stations**' are there, and what scenes of the Passion and the Death of Christ are represented?

*The are **fourteen stations** (sometimes fifteen). Each station is engraved with its own number and often adorned with a small cross on top.⁶² The scenes representing the Passion and the Death of Our Lord are known and disposed as follows:*

- 1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death.
- 2nd Station: Jesus takes his Cross.
- 3rd Station: Jesus falls for the first time.
- 4th Station: Jesus meets His Blessed Mother.
- 5th Station: Simon helps Jesus carry His Cross.
- 6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
- 7th Station: Jesus falls for the second time.
- 8th Station: Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem.
- 9th Station: Jesus falls for the third time.
- 10th Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments.
- 11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
- 12th Station: Jesus dies on the Cross
- 13th Station: Jesus is taken down from the Cross.
- 14th Station: Jesus is placed in the tomb.
- 15th Station: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Optional station)

*Typically, the stations of the cross are placed several feet from each other in order that, while doing the 'Way of the Cross', one walks a few steps between stations, recalling our Lord walking on **His Way to the Cross**.^{62a} When doing the 'Way of the Cross', one stops before each station, meditating on what it represents, and then says quietly: 'We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world'. To conclude he says one 'Our Father', one 'Hail Mary' and one 'Glory be'. A **plenary indulgence** is granted to the faithful who do the stations of the Cross under the usual conditions.⁶³*

62. Illustration of the 'Stations': Part Five, Appendix 'F', Essential Catholic Prayers, The Way of the Cross.

62a. The Way to the Cross in the Gospel: Mt 27:15-28:20; Mk 15:6-16:17; Lk 23:18-24:12; Jn 18:28-19:42.

63. Plenary Indulgence: see Part Five, Catholic Glossary. Conditions to obtain a Plenary Indulgence: see Part Five, Questions & Answers, Question 25.