

Understanding the Mass

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This is the fourth of a series of monthly faith formation articles. The objective of this series of articles is to provide our parishioners with further insights into the tenets of our faith and our Church traditions. In this article we will explore the vestments worn by the Priest and the Deacon including the different colors representing the different seasons of the Church's liturgical year.

We encourage you to take the time to reflect on this article as well as reflect on any questions you might have about your faith, traditions, or topics that we can address in future articles. Even if you feel you understand the monthly topic, please take the time to be open to the Holy Spirit's intervention to help you deepen your understanding.

Vestments worn by Priests & Deacons

During the Mass and other services, the Priest and Deacon will wear a variety of vestments. The primary vestments worn by the priest and deacon during the celebration of the Mass and other services include the following :



Alb: A long white robe that covers the priest's or deacon's body from the neck to the feet. Also a reminder of Baptism.
Symbolism: Purity of the heart.



Stole: A long, narrow strip of cloth that is worn around the neck and hangs down in front of the body.
Symbolism: Priestly power or authority.



Amice: The first vestment that the priest puts on. An amice is usually a square piece of cloth with two cords attached that goes around the priests' neck and covers his collar.
Symbolism: Protection from the devil.



Dalmatic: An outer garment worn by a deacon with sleeves that is worn over the alb.
Symbolism: The Virtue of Charity.



Chasuble: A sleeveless outer garment worn by the priest that is worn over the alb.
Symbolism: The Virtue of Charity.



Cincture: A cord or rope that is tied around the waist to secure the alb.
Symbolism: The Virtue of Purity.



Cope & Humeral Veil: A long, flowing cape that is worn by a priest for processions and other liturgical events. Both are worn during the adoration of the exposed blessed sacrament.
Symbolism: Reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.



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Liturgical Colors

The color of the vestments will depend on the season in the Liturgical year as follows:

<p>GREEN</p> <p><i>is used for</i></p> <p>ORDINARY TIME</p> <p><i>symbolizes</i></p> <p>HOPE</p>	<p>GOLD/WHITE</p> <p><i>is used for</i></p> <p>FEASTS OF OUR LORD, THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, SAINTS & THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, 1ST COMMUNION, MARRIAGE & HOLY ORDERS</p> <p><i>symbolizes</i></p> <p>GLORY, INNOCENCE, PURITY OF THE SOUL</p>	<p>RED</p> <p><i>is used for</i></p> <p>PENTECOST, FEAST OF THE APOSTLES, MARTYRS & THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION</p> <p><i>symbolizes</i></p> <p>THE FIRE OF CHARITY & THE BLOOD OF CHRIST</p>	<p>PURPLE</p> <p><i>is used for</i></p> <p>ADVENT AND LENT, ALSO USED IN MASSES FOR THE DECEASED & RECONCILIATION</p> <p><i>symbolizes</i></p> <p>HUMILITY & PENANCE</p>	<p>PINK</p> <p><i>may be used for</i></p> <p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT & FOURTH SUNDAY OF LAETARE</p> <p><i>symbolizes</i></p> <p>JOY & LOVE</p>
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If you have suggestion for a topic or topics you would like to be the subject of a future article or have any questions on this article please contact us via email at engagingdisciples@ihmparish.net