

# Liturgical Vestments



**Chasuble:** from the Latin, "casula" which means "house." This is the outermost vestment worn at mass. It reminds the priest of Paul's words to the Colossians: "But above all these things, put on love, which is the bond of perfection." (Col 3:14)



**Stole:** this is the garment of Holy Orders, worn only by deacons, priests and bishops. When a priest puts on this garment, sometimes he says this prayer:

*"Restore unto me, O Lord, the Stole of immortality which I lost through the sin of my first parents and, although unworthy to approach Thy sacred Mystery, may I nevertheless attain to joy eternal."*

## Liturgical Colors



**Green:** Worn during Ordinary (numbered) Time, green symbolizes life and hope



**White/Gold:** Reserved for major feasts (like Christmas and Easter), feasts of saints who weren't martyrs, and Marian feasts. White symbolizes purity, joy and innocence



**Red:** the color of blood and fire, red is worn on feasts of the martyrs, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Pentecost

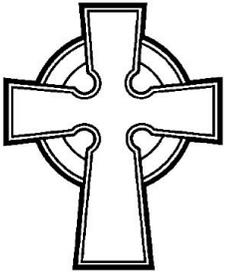


**Purple:** symbolizes penance and waiting. It is also a royal color. It is worn throughout Advent and Lent

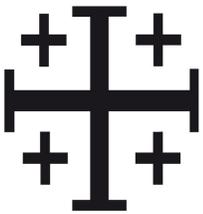


**Rose:** (optional) is for JOY! It is worn only on Gaudete and Laetare Sundays, and marks the midway point of Advent and Lent (respectively)

## Symbols



**Celtic Cross:** The circle behind the cross symbolizes the eternal love of God. It also signifies the rising sun, who is Christ. Legend says that St. Patrick found a circle image carved in stone which represented a local moon goddess. He marked a cross through the circle and explained how Jesus Christ is the true fulfillment of all religions.



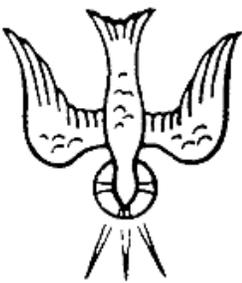
**Jerusalem Cross:** This five-fold cross was worn by the first crusaders to Jerusalem. The central cross is Christ, surrounded by four smaller crosses who are the Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) who spread the Gospel to the four corners of the world.



**IHS:** The abbreviation "IHS" stands for the name of Jesus, which when written in Greek is spelled IHSOUS. The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) use this symbol, plus a cross and three nails below, reminding us of the crucified and risen Christ.



**Chi Rho with Alpha and Omega:** These four Greek letters represent Jesus Christ, who is the first (alpha, A) and the last (omega, Ω). (Rev 1:8) In the center of the image are the first two letters of the Greek word XPISTOS (Christ).



**Dove:** This is a popular symbol of the Holy Spirit who comes to the Apostles at Pentecost, who strengthens the martyrs in their time of persecution and is a bringer of peace. The Holy Spirit descends as a dove to confirm Jesus' identity as the Son of God at His baptism.