

Year A - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

John 6:51-58

What's on the altar?



Background

- This is a simple activity to look at the things that are on and near the altar during the Eucharistic prayer.
- This can be done in the Church with the real articles of the Mass (provided it's ok with your priest or sacristan OR you can print out the images and labels below).

Instructions

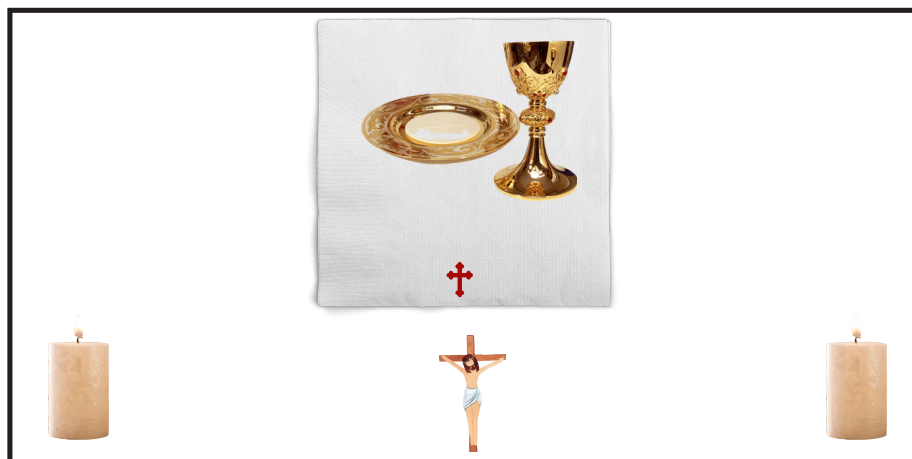
- Using this 'map' as a guideline, place each of the articles on the altar. read the names and descriptions that go with each one and talk about what it's used for. You may like to print out the descriptions and cut them each out to place beside each of the vessels.
- If you are using the printed version of the articles, we suggest using a mat/cardboard or coffee table as a base for this activity. Print the pictures out and laminate them. Note also that there is no altar cloth included in the printed materials.
- Roll the balls out flat onto an oven tray and use a cookie-cutter to create smaller circles.
- Bake for 8-10 mins or until the edges are slightly brown.



Tabernacle (where the ciborium with hosts that have already been consecrated is kept)

Altar (where the priest says the prayers etc)

Credence table (where vessels are kept until they are needed during mass)



Tabernacle

The tabernacle is the special box where the consecrated hosts are kept. It is like a 'home for Jesus'.

Altar

The altar is the special table where the Liturgy of the Eucharist happens.

Corporal

The corporal is a square linen cloth that is placed on the altar. The chalice, paten and ciborium are placed on this special cloth.

Candles

Candles are always placed on the altar to remind us of the light of Jesus Christ.

Crucifix

A crucifix is always placed in the centre of the altar as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Altar cloth

The altar always has a special cloth to cover it (this is placed on first before anything else).

Chalice

The chalice is the special cup that contains the wine which becomes the Blood of Christ Jesus.

Paten

The paten is the special plate that contains the bread which becomes the Body of Christ Jesus.

Ciborium

The ciborium is the special container with a cover that holds the host that is given out during communion. It is also where the consecrated hosts are kept in the tabernacle.

Cruets

The cruets are the small jugs that hold the water and the wine before it is blessed by the priest.

Lavabo

The lavabo is the water jugs, towel and bowl that the priest uses to wash his hands during the Eucharistic prayer.

Sanctum bells

The sanctum bells are the bells that are rung when the priest holds up the Body, and then the Blood of Jesus. The bells signify that this is a really special moment!

