



## What's inside a Catholic Church?

Here are some of the things you may notice when you look around our church.

- ① **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** are a series of pictures, paintings or engravings on the wall of a church depicting the passion of Christ (the events leading to his death). The faithful use them as aids in prayer.
- ② **STOUP** is a container for holy water placed at the doors to a church. People use the water to bless themselves as they enter and leave church.
- ③ **CONFESSIONAL** is a room or private area where the sacrament of reconciliation occurs.
- ④ **PEW** is a seat for worshippers in a church; the **KNEELER** is in front of the pew and can be put down for kneeling.
- ⑤ **STATUE** is a likeness of Jesus, a member of the Holy Family, a saint or an angel that helps people recall the example of the person depicted. The faithful do not worship statues, they serve only as a reminder and source of inspiration.
- ⑥ **AMBO** is the podium or lectern from which the readings are proclaimed. It takes its name from a word meaning "elevated," and is based on the raised platforms from which rabbis read.
- ⑦ **BAPTISMAL FONT** is the basin containing blessed water in which new members of the Church are baptized. The water in the font may be moving, representing the "living water" by which people are reborn into the faith.

- ⑧ **PASCHAL CANDLE** is a large wax candle that is blessed on Holy Saturday during the Easter Vigil. Representing the light of Christ, it is lit for baptisms and funerals.
- ⑨ **CRUCIFIX** is a cross with the figure of the crucified Christ on it. Its purpose is to remind us of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- ⑩ **ALTAR** is the table on which the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered. It is both a sacrificial altar, recalling Christ's sacrifice, and a table around which we gather for the meal, the Eucharist. Eucharist comes from the Greek word meaning "thanksgiving."
- ⑪ **TABERNACLE** is a boxlike repository for the Blessed Sacrament – the consecrated hosts of Christ's actual presence – usually displayed in a prominent place near the main altar or in a separate chapel.
- ⑫ **SANCTUARY LAMP** is a light contained within red glass that is placed before the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept.
- ⑬ **CENSER**, or **THURIBLE**, is the metal container in which incense is burned. The fragrant smoke that rises symbolizes our prayer rising to God.
- ⑭ **PRESIDER'S CHAIR** is the chair for the priest during the Mass.
- ⑮ **AMBRY** is the box in which the holy oils are kept.

HOLY

There are  
oils used  
the sacra  
of baptis  
confirma  
holy ord  
the anoi  
the sick:  
Catechu  
Sacred O  
and Oil  
Sick.