

CHURCH TOUR

- **Sacristy:** The sacristy is the room where the priest prepares for Mass. The priest obviously prepares in practical ways like putting vestments, but he also spiritually prepares to lead all of us into the mystery of Christ's life, death, and Resurrection.
- **Altar:** In religions throughout history, the altar has been a place where people offer sacrifices to God. At Mass, the altar is where the priest consecrates the Eucharist. In a mystical way, Christ's sacrifice on the cross is made present again in the Eucharist.
- **Tabernacle:** The tabernacle is where the Eucharist is kept after it has been consecrated. Jesus is fully present to us in the Eucharist in the tabernacle.
- **Sanctuary lamp:** The sanctuary lamp is a special light that continuously glows to remind us that Christ is present in the Eucharist in the tabernacle. The sanctuary lamp is only extinguished on Good Friday when we move the Eucharist out of the church as a reminder of Christ's death.
- **Ambo:** The ambo is the podium where the Word of God is proclaimed. Whenever anyone is speaking from the ambo, it is an opportunity for us to hear about the work of God through all of salvation history.
- **Statue of Mary:** When we see people reverencing or kneeling before the statue of Mary, they are not worshipping the statue. The statue of Mary is simply a reminder to reach out to Mary in prayer. When we ask for Mary to pray for us, we express our love to her as Jesus' mother and she returns our love, helps us know the love of Christ, and brings our prayers to Him.
- **Statues, stained glass windows, and other images of saints:** Our churches have images of saints because the saints are people who can inspire us and who can help us know and love God as they did. Churches are often decorated with the images of the saint the parish is named after or saints from a religious order the parish is connected to.
- **Intercessory candles:** In religions throughout history, flames and candles have symbolized prayers rising up to God. Our churches sometimes have candles in front of particular images or statues as a physical reminder of our prayer intentions.
- **Area for musicians and/or choir:** In most religious practices, music is an important part of worship. Catholic worship can include many different styles of music. It is important to remember not to just sing along but really pray the words in the songs.
- **Baptismal font:** The baptismal font is used for baptizing people when they come into the Church. The Catholic Church typically baptizes people when they are babies, but adults are sometimes baptized during the Easter Vigil. The baptismal font reminds us that we are God's sons and daughters, baptized into Christ's life, death, and Resurrection.

SVDP EDGE Church Tour Trivia

Ask your small group each trivia question. When they answer correctly, move to that location in the church and read the description/reflection found on the *Church Tour* handout. Ask another question and repeat until you've visited each location. Close in prayer as a group and dismiss your class.

1) Q: **Where does Fr. Tom go to prepare for Mass?**

A: The Sacristy (Note: We have two sacristies. Take your class to the one inside the Liturgical Workroom located near the Reservation Chapel.)

2) Q: **Our church has this structure in common with holy places all over the world. It's where the sacrifice is offered. What is it?**

A: The Altar

3) Q: **Where is the Eucharist kept safe for worship and use during and outside of Mass?**

A: The Tabernacle (Note: Take your class inside the reservation chapel to observe and pray. Remind them to be quiet and reverent.)

4) Q: **Which special candle is only extinguished once a year on Good Friday?**

A: The Sanctuary Candle (Note: Located on the south wall in the Reservation Chapel)

5) Q: **What special structure is used to proclaim the Word of God?**

A: The Ambo

6) Q: **Which important person in the New Testament is called the Spouse of the Holy Spirit?**

A: Mary (Note: Take your class to your choice of any of the Mary statues or images located around the church.)

7) Q: **What holy people inspire us to be holy and are always praying for us?**

A: The Saints (Note: Take your class to any of the saint mosaics. Share a saint story of your own if you have one! Then proceed to the 1st class relics behind the Mary statue! This question is 2 for 1!)

8) Q: **What common church objects can symbolize our prayers rising to God and the power of the Holy Spirit?**

A: Candles (Note: Any candles will do!)

9) Q: **Where do you go if you want to lend your lovely voice to our worship of God?**

A: Music Area

10) Q: **Where do you stop to remember your baptism when you enter the church?**

A: Baptismal Font