

**ADDITIONAL PROGRAM IDEAS GREAT LENT GIVEAWAY 2008 –
CHAPEL CHALLENGE:**



Glossary of Terms

Altar cloth – the special cloth used to cover the altar table

Altar table - the holy table that symbolizes the Holy Throne of God, Mt. Golgotha where Christ was crucified and the Tomb of the Savior. The square table in the middle of the Sanctuary (altar area), made of wood or marble, on which the Eucharist is offered. It is dressed with the “Altar Cloth”, and contains relics deposited there by the consecrating bishop.

Altar server/Vestry candles – candles used by the Altar Servers or Vestry Servers during the small and great entrances, memorial services and Gospel reading.

Antimins – It is a rectangular piece of cloth, of linen or silk, with representations of the entombment(burial) of Christ, the four Evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), and scriptural passages related to the Eucharist. A relic of a saint, is sewn into the cloth. The antimens must be consecrated by the head of the church (a Patriarch or Metropolitan) and always lie on the Altar Table. No sacrament, especially Divine Liturgy, can be performed without a consecrated antimens.

Banners – usually contains an icon of Christ, the Theotokos, the Saints, Feast Days, or angels and are used during processions of church services.

Baptismal Font – A large, often movable, circular basin on a stand, containing the water for immersion in Baptism. It symbolizes the Jordan River or the pool of Siloam.

Bishop’s Chair - a special chair in the Sanctuary or Nave, reserved for the use of the Bishop only. It represents his presence with us at every Divine Service.

Candles –traditionally made of beeswax in the Orthodox church as a form of sacrifice and devotion to God or Saints. They are used in various Orthodox Services and ceremonies and are symbolic of Christ, who is “the Light of the World.” According to a different symbolism, the two elements of a candle represent the two natures of Christ: the Divine (the burning wick) and the Human (the wax body).

Censor(Cadillo) and Stand – A metal vessel hung on chains, used in church ceremonies for burning incense, symbolic of prayers we offer to God. There are twelve small bells attached to the chains, representing the message of the twelve Apostles.

Chalice and Chalice Covers (veils) – A large cup of silver or gold, with a long-stemmed base, used for the Eucharist. This is the Holy Cup in which the wine and water are put during the Proskomedia, and later in the which the Holy Bread (the Body of Christ) is added before the Communion of the Faithful. It is one of the most sacred vessels of the church and is handled only by the clergy.

Chanters Stand – large slant-topped stand where chanters and singers keep the needed books/text during a divine service.

Discos (Paten) – The round flat metal dish on a pedestal, upon which is placed the Holy Bread during the preparation of the Eucharist.

Iconostas – The screen of Icons separating the sanctuary from the body of the church, and containing three doors. The central doorway, which is closed by double gates and a curtain, is known as the Royal Doors. The smaller side doors are known as Deacon Doors.

Eternal Light - hangs above the Royal Doors. Representing Christ as the eternal light that leads the way to salvation.

Fans – Bear an Icon of the Holy Angels, held by the Altar-Servers, over the Icons, Gospels, the Holy Gifts, etc. during the Divine Services.

Gospel book – Contains the first four books of the New Testament. At the Divine Liturgy the Deacon intones (reads) the Gospel. At the Vigil, the reading is done by the Bishop or Priest.

Gospel Lectern – This is the place on which the Gospel Book is rested while being read. Some churches do not use a Gospel Lectern but practice the ancient Orthodox Practice of resting the book upon the heads of the faithful.

Hand Cross – used by the clergy when blessing the faithful.

Lampada – Hanging lamps placed in front of Icons.

Nave – the main body of the Church Building where the Orthodox Faithful stand and pray worshipping the Lord God.

Pews - a place to sit in the sanctuary. This is a new feature in Orthodox churches. Most churches outside of the United States do not have these.

Rushnyks – Embroidered Towels used in the Ukrainian and other Slavic churches to show reverence to Icons.

Sacristy – A utility room at the right side(south) of the altar, where the vestments and sacred vessels are kept and where the clergy vest for services.

Sanctuary – usually the most eastern part of the church building, behind the iconostas.

Seven Branch Candle Stand – Stands on the Altar Table directly to the back behind the Tabernacle. It comes from the Jewish tradition in the temple.

Side Altars – places of prayer within the Nave or Vestibule for the faithful to pray and light candles.

Spoon and Spear – A small, lance-shaped (diamond) double-edged knife used by the priest for the cutting of the altar bread in the service of the Preparation of the Holy Gifts (Proskomide)

Standing Cross – Usually found on the Tetropod.

Star – A sacred vessel having two arched metal bands held together in such a fashion as to form the shape of a cross. It is placed on the paten(discos) and serves to prevent the veil from touching the particles of the Eucharist. ***The liturgical utensil that sets above the Discos and symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem that “stood over the place where the Young Child lay.”***

Tabernacle – An elaborate ark or receptacle kept on the Altar Table, in which the Holy Gifts of the Eucharist are preserved for the communion of the sick, or for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during Great Lent.

Table Cross – found on the Altar Table.

Table of Oblation – Located on the northern wall of the altar (Sanctuary). Here the Holy Gifts are prepared during the Service of the Proskomedia.

Tetropod - icon stand/table. Often found in the front of the Nave.

Tetropod Icon – Icon placed on the Tetropod for the faithful to venerate upon entrance. The icon is changed with the feast or on a daily basis to commemorate the saint of that particular day.

Vestibule/Narthax – the first part (normally in the western section) of the church building, immediately after the entrance. Some services begin here.