

Vestments

Here are some of the garments worn by clergy — bishops, priests and deacons — for Mass or other ceremonial occasions.



① **ALB** is the first vestment a member of the clergy puts on when getting ready for Mass. It is an ankle-length white garment with long sleeves. The name originates from the Latin word *alba*, or “white,” and is a symbol of the white garment worn at our baptism.

② **CINCTURE** is a belt or cord tied around the waist of an alb.

③ **STOLE** is the long strip of material that hangs around the neck of a priest or bishop and down his front on each side. It is worn while saying Mass or performing other sacraments. A deacon’s stole is similar except that it crosses the chest. The stole is the symbol of the office of the priest or deacon.

④ **DALMATIC** is a wide, short-sleeved garment worn over an alb by a deacon during Mass and some other liturgical functions.

⑤ **CHASUBLE** is the long sleeveless garment worn over the alb by a priest or a bishop during Mass.

⑥ **COPE** is a long cape worn around the shoulders and fastened at the chest. It is worn by clergy during liturgical functions other than Mass.

⑦ **MITER** is the tall peaked hat worn by bishops. Its two shield-shaped halves are said to represent the Old and New Testaments. It is always removed when the bishop prays.

⑧ **PECTORAL CROSS** is a cross on a chain worn by a bishop.

⑨ **CROSIER** is a tall ornamental staff carried by a bishop. It is shaped like a shepherd’s crook to symbolize the bishop’s role as shepherd of his flock.

⑩ **ZUCCHETTO** is a small, round skull-cap worn by certain members of the clergy. The color of the zucchetto varies: the pope wears white, a cardinal wears red, and a bishop wears purple.

⑪ **CHOIR CASSOCK** is an ankle-length garment worn by a bishop when in choir dress. Priests and deacons can wear black cassocks. The Pope wears a white cassock.



THE ROMAN COLLAR

is worn by some Catholic clergy as an outward symbol of their vocation.

The color of the vestments worn by the clergy changes throughout the liturgical year, depending on the season.

WHITE (symbolizing joy and victory) is worn during the Christmas and Easter seasons, on many feast days and at most weddings and funerals.

RED (symbolizing fire and blood) is worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost and the feast days of martyrs.

GREEN (symbolizing life and hope) is worn during Ordinary Time, which are the numbered (ordinal) weeks/months.

PURPLE is worn during Advent and Lent as a sign of penance, sacrifice and preparation.