

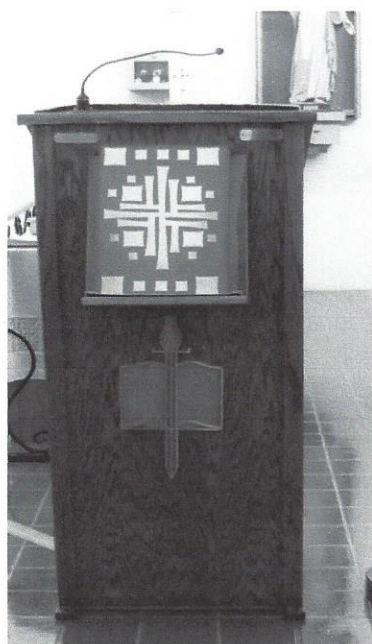
Understanding Our Church

We come to a Mass sit, stand and kneel at appropriate times; respond with prayers and singing (well some of us); probably we could and should do much better in this area. Today we begin a refresher on what exactly is in this church building. Maybe we can all learn something.

Let's begin with a definition of one of the most important areas within the building.

Sanctuary: The sanctuary is typically the raised area at the front of the church where the altar, AMBO and cross are located. Also included are the priests' and altar servers' seats. The tabernacle that holds the Blessed Sacrament is usually, but not always; in the sanctuary (some larger churches have side chapels where the tabernacle is located).

Most of us know about the tabernacle and the altar but how many of you know what the AMBO is? We all should understand that the lectern we read from is an integral part of the Mass furnishings. It is called by a specific name and used for a specific purpose within every Mass.



St. Raphael

*The Lectionary for Mass:
Second Typical Edit. says:*

“it should be so noble in design that it reflects the dignity of God’s word to such a degree that the assembly sees it as one of two tables from which it receives nourishment:

Word and Eucharist.”



St. Joseph

The AMBO is a fixed furnishing like the altar and equally important within the Mass since it is where the Word of God is proclaimed to all of us. The ambo is in union with the altar within the sanctuary. Like the altar there is only one AMBO in the sanctuary.