

Tour Guide's Description Sheet

- We make the sign of the cross with water as we enter the church. We take holy water from the **font**. It is called "holy" because it has been blessed by a priest. When we sign ourselves, we recall that at baptism we were welcomed into the community of faith and share in the work of Jesus.
- In the church we can see one another, but we also focus on the **sanctuary**, the space where the altar is located. Church seats are long benches called **pews**.
- We believe that Jesus is truly present in the community that is assembled, people gathered around the **altar**. Jesus Christ is truly present in the word of God proclaimed by the reader and in the priest who presides at the worship. He is truly present in the consecrated ("made holy") bread and wine we receive at **communion**.
- The altar looks like a table, reminding us that Jesus comes to be our bread of life, and that we are sharing a sacred meal together. The altar is covered with an **altar cloth** (like a tablecloth) for this extraordinary meal.
- On the altar are **candles**, symbols of the presence of Jesus, the light of the world. There is also a large candle called the **Paschal** or **Easter candle**. It is a reminder of the risen Christ in our midst.
- The **lectern** is the special stand used to hold the **lectionary**, the book that contains the readings from the Bible. These are read by the lector, the reader, and by the priest, who usually stands at the lectern when he gives the homily (when he shares the meaning of the word of God with us).