

CHOIR DRESS

Choir dress is worn by deacons, priests and bishops when presiding at or celebrating a liturgy that is not the Mass, especially the Liturgy of the Hours, or when attending Mass without celebrating or concelebrating the Eucharist. It is worn by seminarians, instituted lectors and acolytes, and altar servers and choir members at Mass or other liturgical events.

The basic components of choir dress are:

- *the cassock, with or without fascia (fringed sash worn around the waist),*
- *if the person is a brother or priest in a religious order that has its own habit, the habit is worn in place of the cassock,*
- *the surplice (or rochet if the wearer is a bishop, cardinal, or canon), and*

For seminarians, deacons, and priests the cassock is exactly the same as their normal cassock: a black cassock with black buttons, girded with a black fascia.

Cassock & Surplice



A **surplice** is a liturgical vestment of the Western Christian Church. The surplice is in the form of a tunic of white linen or cotton fabric, reaching to the knees or to the ankles, with wide or moderately wide sleeves. It was originally a long garment with open sleeves reaching nearly to the ground, but in the Catholic tradition, the surplice often has shorter, closed sleeves and square shoulders (sometimes referred to as a *cotta*, as it is derived from the cut-off alb.)


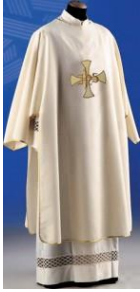


Liturgical Vestments for both Deacons & Priests



The **alb** is an ample white garment coming down to the ankles and is usually girdled with a cincture. It is simply the long linen tunic used by the Romans. It is the twelfth oldest liturgical vestment, and was adopted very early by Christians, and especially by the clergy for the Eucharistic liturgy. Nowadays, the alb is the common vestment for all ministers at Mass, both clerics and laypersons, and is worn over the cassock and under any other special garments, such as the stole, dalmatic or chasuble. If the alb does not completely cover the collar, an amice is often worn underneath the alb.



The **cincture** is a liturgical vestment, worn encircling the body around or above the waist. In the Roman Catholic Church, the cincture is a long, rope-like cord with tassled or knotted ends, tied around the waist outside the alb. The color may be white, or may vary according to the color of the liturgical season. A bishop's cincture is made of intertwining gold and green threads, a cardinal's has red and gold, and the pope's with white and gold.

specifically for the Deacon	<p>stole</p> 	<p>The stole is a liturgical vestment of various Christian denominations. It consists of a band of colored cloth, about seven and a half to nine feet long and three to four inches wide, whose ends may be straight or may broaden out. The center of the stole is worn around the back of the neck and the two ends hang down parallel to each other in front, either attached to each other or hanging loose. The stole is almost always decorated in some way, usually with a cross or some other significant religious design.</p>
	<p>dalmatic</p> 	<p>The dalmatic is a long wide-sleeved tunic, which serves as a liturgical vestment in the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and United Methodist Churches, which is sometimes worn by a deacon at Mass or other services. Like the chasuble worn by priests and bishops, it is an outer vestment and is supposed to match the liturgical color of the day.</p>
specifically for the Priest	<p>stole</p> 	<p>The stole is a liturgical vestment of various Christian denominations. It consists of a band of colored cloth, about seven and a half to nine feet long and three to four inches wide, whose ends may be straight or may broaden out. The center of the stole is worn around the back of the neck and the two ends hang down parallel to each other in front, either attached to each other or hanging loose. The stole is almost always decorated in some way, usually with a cross or some other significant religious design.</p>
	<p>chasuble</p> 	<p>The chasuble is the outermost liturgical vestment worn by clergy for the celebration of the Eucharist. "The vestment proper to the priest celebrant at Mass and other sacred actions directly connected with Mass is, unless otherwise indicated, the chasuble, worn over the alb and stole" (<i>General Instruction of the Roman Missal</i>, 337). Like the stole, it is normally of the liturgical colour of the Mass being celebrated.</p>