



MASTER LIST

Names & Definitions of all 57 Catholic symbols and objects found on the NAME-IT! game cards.

HolyHeroes.com/NameIt



Decalogue
/ DEK-a-log /

The 10 Commandments which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. They reveal what all people everywhere owe to God and to each other.



Ambo
/ AM-bo /

The pulpit or lectern where the Scripture readings are proclaimed at Holy Mass.



Advent Wreath

A circle of evergreen with four candles, three violet and one pink. The circle and evergreen represent God's eternity, and the candles are Christ's light as we prepare for Christmas.



Angel

God's creatures who are pure spirit with no bodies, although sometimes they are allowed to appear to people as if they have bodies.



Alb

A white robe that may be worn by any baptized person when serving in the liturgy. Priests and deacons wear albs underneath their chasuble and dalmatic, respectively.



Ash Cross

A cross made of ashes on a person's forehead on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent.



Altar Bells

A set of bells rung before and after the Consecration of bread and wine. They are rung to alert the congregation to the miracle occurring on the altar.



Baptismal Shell

A shell-like dish that is used to pour water upon a person to be baptized.



Bethlehem Star

The star that appeared at Christ's birth and which was followed by the Three Magi to find Jesus.



Chalice

/ CHAL-is /

A cup that is used to hold the Precious Blood during Mass.



Bible

A compilation of 73 holy books which were inspired by God to reveal His actions in the world from the beginning of time.



Chasuble

/ CHAW-za-bul /

A sleeveless vestment worn by a priest over all other garments during Holy Mass. The color of the chasuble depends on the liturgical season.



Biretta

/ beer-ET-ta /

A stiff square cap with three or four ridges on top and sometimes a tuft, as well. It is worn by cardinals (who wear red), bishops (purple), priests, deacons, and seminarians (who all wear black).



Chi Rho

/ Ki-Ro /

An ancient symbol for Christ, consisting of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ.



Cardinal

A red bird that was given its name because its bright red feathers matched the scarlet that Catholic cardinals wear.



Ciborium

/ si-BORE-ee-um /

A covered container which holds both unconsecrated and consecrated hosts at Holy Mass.



Cassock

/ KAS-ok /

A long robe worn by clergy. The color and trim determines the rank. The Pope wears an entirely white cassock, cardinals wear black with scarlet, bishops black with red, priests and seminarians wear all black.



Crosier

/ CROW-zur /

A staff shaped like a shepherd's crook carried by bishops and abbots representing their role as shepherds of human souls.



Cross

The Cross upon which Jesus died on Good Friday to save us from Hell.



Fleur de lis

/ FLUR-de-lee /

French for “flower of the lily.” This symbol is often used to symbolize the Holy Trinity or the purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Crown of Thorns

The crown woven out of thorns that was placed on Jesus’ head during His Passion as a form of mocking torture.



“Epiclesis” Hands

/ epi-KLEE-sis /

While there isn’t a proper name for this gesture, you will see the priest place his hands like this over the offerings of bread and wine during Holy Mass when he prays for the Holy Spirit to come down upon them before the Consecration.



Cruets

/ KREW-its /

Two small pitchers that hold the wine and water that will be used during Holy Mass.



Elevation of the Host

Raising of the consecrated Host—which has become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ Jesus—for the congregation’s adoration at Holy Mass.



Divine Mercy Image

Jesus appeared to St. Faustina with two rays coming from His Heart, the pale for water and the red for blood, to show the love and mercy He has for humanity.



Praying Hands

The hand position with palms together that is used while praying.



Ichthys

/ EEK-this /

The Greek word for fish is ICHTHYS. Early Christians used the letters of this word to stand for *Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior*. They used this symbol during the Roman persecution as a way of identifying themselves secretly.



Holy Heroes Answer Kid

The Holy Heroes Answer Kid—who is always ready to provide the right answer to your Catholic questions!



Holy Spirit

The third person of the Holy Trinity is often represented as a dove. Why? Because after John baptized Jesus, John testified, "I saw the Spirit descend from Heaven like a dove." (John 1:32) This art is based on the Holy Spirit Window designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in 1666 in Saint Peter's Basilica.



Holy Water Font

This font holds water that has been liturgically blessed and is used for blessing persons, places, and objects.



Immaculate Heart of Mary

The flame above the heart represents her burning love for her son, the sword symbolizes the sorrows she suffered as Jesus' mother, and the roses stand for her obedience, humility, and purity.



Jerusalem Cross

Also known as the "five-fold cross" or the "Crusader's Cross," it was on the Papal banner given by Pope Urban II to the knights of the First Crusade in 1095.



Keys of Peter

The keys to the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus entrusted to Saint Peter, making him the first Pope of the Catholic Church (Matthew 16:19).



Lamb of God

A title of Jesus, as proclaimed by John the Baptist: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)



Lily

A white flower that symbolizes Mary's purity and Christ's resurrection.



Manger

A small feeding trough into which Jesus was placed after His birth in the stable.



Miraculous Medal

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Catherine Labouré on Nov 27, 1830, and asked for this medal to be made.



Miter

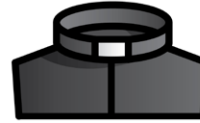
/ MY-tur /

A tall hat made up of two cone-shaped parts that are joined at the base. The miter has two pieces of material trailing down the back. It is worn over a zucchetto by bishops and abbots during certain ceremonies.



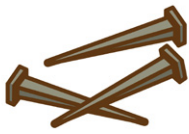
Monstrance
/ MON-strunts /

A sacred vessel with a clear glass center into which is placed a consecrated Host so the faithful can adore Our Lord in the Eucharist. It is used to hold the Eucharist for a procession, to give blessings, or for Adoration.



Roman Collar

Also called a “clerical collar,” it is a visible sign of the holy vocation of clergy (bishops, priests, deacons, and some seminarians).



Nails

The three nails that were used to fasten Jesus to the Cross.



Rosary

Beads used to help count the prayers when praying the time-honored Catholic devotion of contemplating the Life of Jesus through the eyes of Mary His mother.



Noah's Ark

The boat built by Noah to save his family and the animals God had created from the flood He sent in punishment for man's sins. It prefigures how we are now saved from Original Sin by baptism.



Madonna and Child

“Madonna” is Italian for “Lady” and is a title of respect for the Mother of God. Mary holding the Child Jesus is a common Catholic image.



Palm Branch

The branches used to welcome Jesus the Messiah into Jerusalem a few days before His Passion. We commemorate the celebration every year on Palm Sunday, the last Sunday before Easter.



Sacred Heart of Jesus

Visual representation of Christ's love for each of us. The Crown of Thorns, the Cross, and His Blood show His offering His Life for us. The fire stands for His burning love for us.



Paschal Candle
/ PASS-kul /

A large white beeswax candle with special markings on it that is blessed every year at the Easter Vigil and then used throughout the year at baptisms and funerals.



Sanctuary Lamp

A red lamp placed beside the tabernacle. When it is lit, Christ in the Eucharist is present in the tabernacle. When it is unlit, Christ is not there.



Scapular
/ SKAP-yoo-lur /

Two pieces of fabric connected by a cord. It is worn to represent a devotion to the Church and her teachings.



Tongue of Fire

The Holy Spirit descended in the form of flames upon the disciples and Mary on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).



Shamrock

A small three leafed green plant that was used by St. Patrick to explain the Trinity: three Divine Persons (the leaves) in one God.



Votive Candle

Also called a Prayer Candle, it is a small candle in churches that may be lit by the faithful for specific prayer intentions.



Stole

A strip of cloth worn only by deacons, priests, and bishops as the badge of their office. Deacons wear the stole like a sash over one shoulder. Priests and bishops wear it from the back of the neck straight down over both shoulders.



Zucchetto
/ tsoo-KET-o /

A skull cap with a knot or braid in the center which is worn by clergy. The Pope wears white, cardinals scarlet, purple for bishops, and black for abbots.



Tabernacle
/ TAB-ur-nakal /

A gold box that contains the Eucharist outside of Holy Mass. All tabernacles must have a lock.



Holy Heroes Crown

This crown and halo symbol is used in the Holy Heroes logo. It is a reminder of eternal life in Heaven. "Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)



Thurible
/ THUR-i-bull /

A container with holes in the top which is suspended on chains. It is swung to spread the smoke from burning incense.



Helping You Bring the Joy of the Faith to Your Family

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