

**Generations of Faith  
The Church, A Holy House of Living Stones  
Follow up Q&A**

***When do they get the relics from Saints?***

Relics of different Saints—the material remains of a Saint—have been obtained at different times. Some relics were obtained when said Saint was canonized and his or her remains exhumed for examination (for possible incorruptibility); other relics were obtained when the body of a Saint was transferred to a new tomb (possibly in a new church dedicated to this Saint) or exhumed for a particular celebration (such as anniversary of canonization). All relics are accompanied by certificates of authentication.

***Why were the ambo and altar re-arranged to their current configuration?***

Fr. Rick is planning a bulletin insert in Advent to explain this.

***What determines when Easter is celebrated?***

The Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the 14th day of the paschal full moon, which is the full moon whose 14th day falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox. This is a long way of saying that Easter is on the first Sunday after Passover.

***How are the holy oils disposed of?***

During Holy Week, the Archbishop consecrates oils for parishes to use until the Holy Week of the following year. Unused oil may be disposed of by burning (we burn our old oils in the Easter Fire at the Easter Vigil).

***Why does the priest sometimes wear the stole outside the chasuble?***

This is a matter of style. The stole worn around the neck is the symbol of the priest's ministry. Deacons wear their stoles on their left shoulder and across the chest.

***Does the priest have to say certain prayers as he vests?***

In the Mass prior to the Vatican II reforms of the liturgy there were prayers said in Latin for each article the priest put on. Those prayers are no longer in use.

***Why did we switch from glass cups to pewter?***

The church in the most recent instruction from Rome about the Mass required that the material used for the sacred vessels be unbreakable and worthy of containing the precious blood of the Lord.

***Where do we get the wine for Mass?***

We purchase our sacramental wine from a religious goods distributor. Wine used at Mass has to be made from pure grapes with no additives. The alcohol content must be no less than 12% and no more than 18%.

***Is the bread real?***

Yes. Hosts used at Mass are made from unleavened flour and water.

***Why do churches have the presider's chair and ambo in different places?***

Check out Fr. Rick's bulletin insert on sanctuary furniture & arrangement in Advent.

***What color do they put up for Easter?***

White is the liturgical color for solemn celebrations such as Easter—in addition other colors such as gold may be used for the vestments and pastel colors are appropriate for decorating the church space in a manner that reflects the dignity of the season.

***Why are there so many candles in the church?***

As the parish is participating in the ARISE Together In Christ program we have 21 small communities meeting each week. The arrangement in the sanctuary is a reminder for all of us to keep faithful to our prayer commitments to support these groups. A candle is burning representing each group. They are surrounding the symbol of community which was a gift from our Sister Parish in Dar es Salaam.

In November you will see the memorial candles burning around the walls of the church. These are reminders to pray for those who have died during the past year.

***How does Fr. Rick know how many hosts are needed for Mass?***

The size of the community at each Mass is about the same each week.

***Does Fr. Rick have to consume all the remaining consecrated bread and wine?***

All the wine consecrated at a mass must be consumed at that time; consecrated bread may either be consumed or reserved in the Tabernacle. We try at Saint Robert's to only distribute that which is consecrated at that Mass and not go to the tabernacle for reserved Eucharist. Therefore if it is not a large amount both the Eucharistic ministers and Fr. Rick consume the remaining consecrated bread.

***How should one approach the altar? When I was little we had to genuflect every time we passed by it.***

Not to put an age on questioner, but I would imagine that at the time he or she is speaking of the tabernacle which contains the reserved Eucharist (Blessed Sacrament) was in the center of the altar area (Sanctuary). We at St Robert's reserve the Eucharist on the left side of the sanctuary and so it is appropriate upon entering and leaving the church to genuflect facing toward the tabernacle. When passing in front of the altar it is appropriate to stop and

bow one's head (as the lectors and cantors do at Mass). The altar is a symbol of Christ in our midst and should always be treated with reverence.

***Why is the Chi Rho the first letters of the Greek and not the Latin?***

Chi Rho are the first letters spelling Christ in Greek and are superimposed to



form the Chi Rho symbol. The Greek letters visually evoke the symbol of the cross which is probably the reason they are used—in addition, it was the language of the early Christians that first adopted this symbol.