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# Doing Rite!™

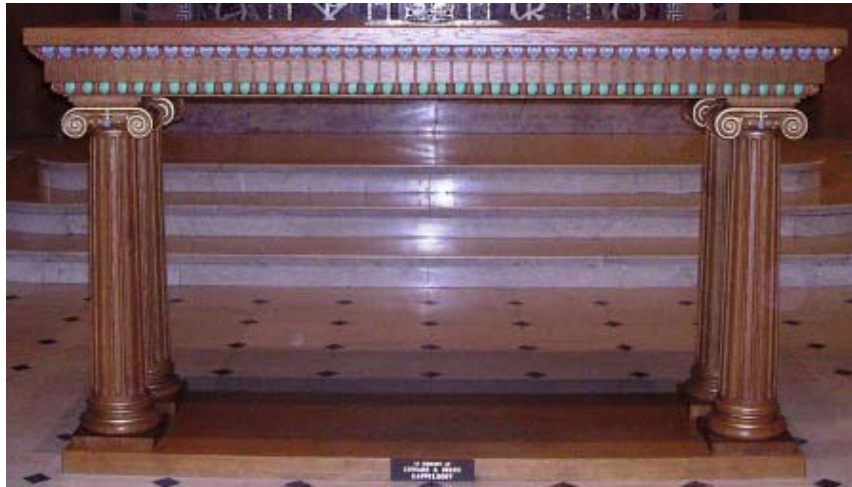
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Dedicating an Altar

## Dedicating an Altar

There are many similarities between the Dedication of an Altar and the Rite of Baptism.



First, the bishop sprinkles the altar with holy water. Someone being baptized is either immersed in, or sprinkled with, holy water.



Next the bishop anoints the altar with chrism, one of the three holy oils used in our Catholic Church. The chrism is poured over the top of the altar and rubbed into the altar. In the Rite of Baptism, as soon as the newly baptized has been immersed or sprinkled with water, he/she is anointed with chrism.



Then the altar is covered, or clothed, with a white cloth, much like a newly baptized Christian is clothed with a white baptismal garment.



And just like the newly baptized Christian received a lighted candle, symbolizing the Light of Christ, candles are placed by the altar, and these candles are then lighted.



How interesting it is that baptism leads to Eucharist, and that each time the baptized approach the altar to receive the Eucharist, we can be reminded yet again of our baptismal dignity as sons and daughters of God!