

CREATING A PRAYER SPACE OR PRAYER TABLE



- Create the prayer space in a prominent place. Everyone should be able to see it. It should be a place of reverence and only sacred objects should be placed on it. It should never become a catch-all place.
- Decorate the prayer space with noble simplicity. You will want to enthrone (prop up) a Bible and possibly keep a bowl of blessed water on it. At the first gathering of the year, you may want to plan a simple Bible or prayer space dedication service, consecrating the area to prayer. This will help the learners to recognize the space as sacred.
- Use the colors of the church liturgical seasons. This will help build connections with the Sunday Mass and the entire community's worship. The liturgical colors and seasons are:
 - Advent – Violet or Blue
 - Christmas - White
 - Ordinary Time – Green
 - Lent – reddish purple
 - Easter - White
- Liturgical symbols include bread, wine oil, water, light and the cross. Adaptable objects are wheat, dried bread loaves, water bowl, oil bottle, wine cup, candles, and a wooden cross. For the specific liturgical seasons suggestions include:
 - Lent – rocks, sand, cactus, bowl of ashes, crucifix, dried flowers, thorn sprigs, grey/earthtone fabric accents
 - Easter – white candles, water bowl, oil bottle/bowl picture of the Risen Christ, fresh flowers
 - Advent – artificial and real evergreen, purple/blue ribbons, Advent wreath (3 purple and one pink candle – no candle in center (that is not Catholic) seasonal flowers, empty manger/stable
 - Christmas – manger, white poinsettias, white candle
 - Ordinary Time in summer - light green colors, candle, green plants, summer flowers, seashells
 - Ordinary Time in fall – darker green colors, candle and fall flowers or leaves
 - Ordinary Time in winter – darker green colors, candle, winter foliage, pine cones
- Special symbols that can be used during sacrament preparation are
 - Reconciliation – pot/bowl of incense, Act of Contrition scroll, purple fabric accents
 - First Eucharist – bread, wheat stalks, artificial grapes, plate, wine cup, bread basket
 - Confirmation – red sash, glass oil container, basket/display with each person's Confirmation name, baptismal candle or small white garment, Holy Spirit image – dove or flame
 - Choose and display items with care. Remember the space should be simple, uncluttered and elicit a sense of sacredness for deepening personal prayer while creating a reminder of being part of the larger liturgical life of the Church.