

Laconic Liturgist



A liturgist has a special function in the Catholic Church. This person, **now you**, helps the people of the church become closer to God. Your job is to interpret the symbols placed in the Cathedral to help us be closer to God and to feel his presence.

Most symbols in the church speak silently and the people must look carefully and thoughtfully to completely understand. Some symbols are the same in every Catholic church, and some are special to the individual church. Think carefully first about the name of the Cathedral as you research and walk around.

A **laconic** person is one of few words. You are laconic as the liturgist because you must see the symbols and explain them in just a few words. Be sure that you are seeking the deeper meaning behind each symbol. Take some time to ponder, understand, and then meditate when you visit the Cathedral.

Symbolism in Structure

Each of the places listed below has a special meaning in either the Mass or in bringing the people closer to God. Research why it is used, what it means, why it is placed where it is.

Outline of the Cathedral (bird's eye view of the entire building):

Saint statues (in the niches on the outside of the building):

Baptismal font:

The altar:

The crucifix:



The sanctuary lamp:

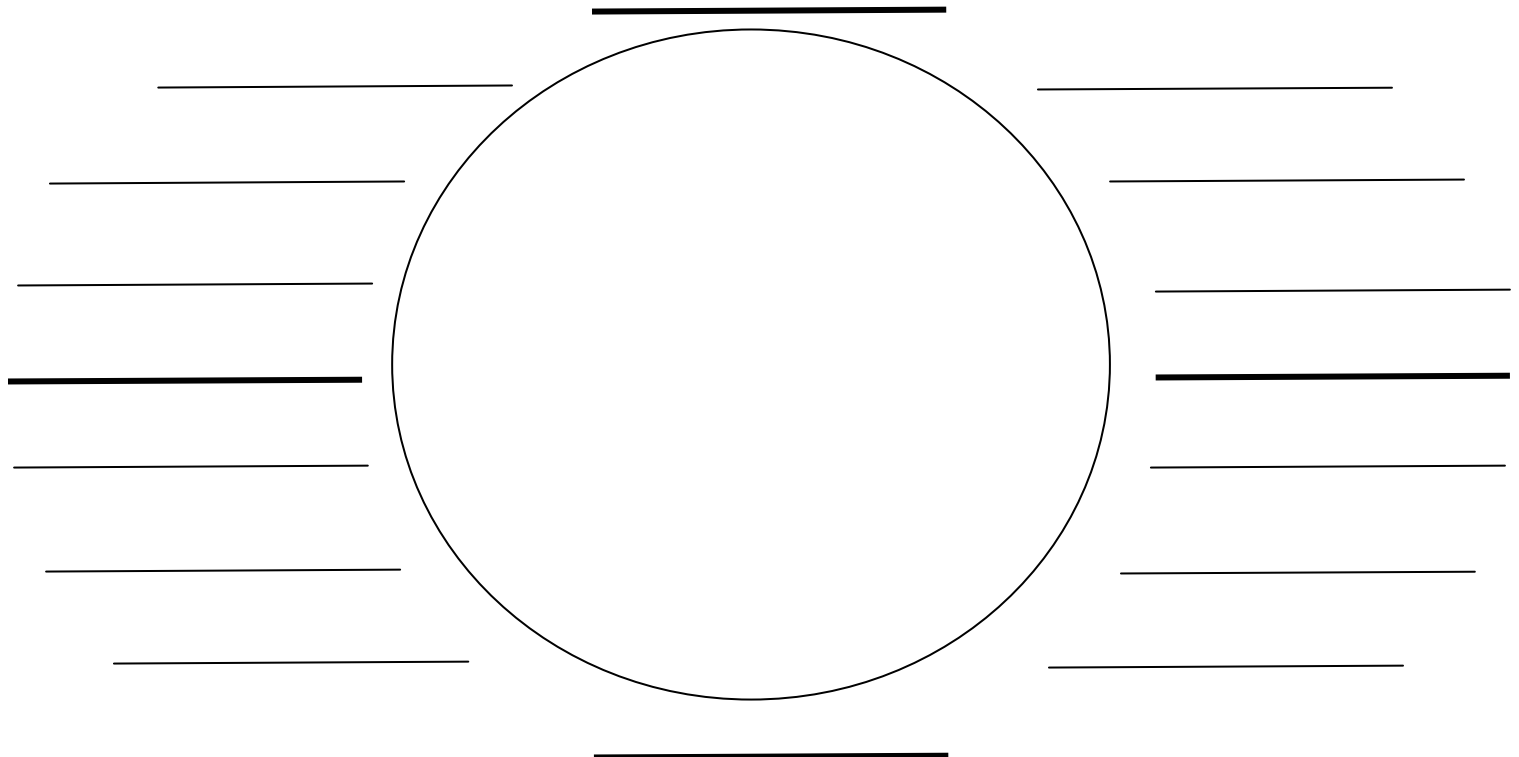
The dove in the oculus (see the dome):

Selection of the Roundels:



Look carefully at the roundels in the dome. Use the scripture references and the pictures in the roundels to determine the story from the Bible. Write a few words on the lines below to remind yourself what they are. Mark the Old Testament with a green dot, the New Testament with a red dot, and Revelation with a blue dot. Draw the symbol found in the dome oculus in the center of the circle. What do you notice? Why would the liturgy in the dome be arranged this way?

East



West

Sketch your favorite roundel on the back of this paper! What is the big idea being taught in the dome? Be ready to share both your favorite roundel and the big idea from the dome with your group!