

The Purificator

The purificator is a small piece of white linen, usually twelve to eighteen inches long and nine or ten inches wide. It is marked with a cross in the center and is folded in three layers. It is placed on the chalice and brought to the Altar with the vessels and other Altar cloths.

The purificator is used by the priest in the celebration of Mass to purify his fingers and the chalice and paten after Holy Communion. The purpose of purification is to wipe the Precious Blood from the rim of the chalice and to purify sacred vessels. Whenever Precious Blood is accidentally spilled, purificators should be used for absorption.

Because of their function, purificators regularly become stained with the Precious Blood. It is, therefore, essential that they should first be cleansed in a sacrarium and only afterwards washed with laundry soaps in the customary manner. Purificators should be ironed in such a way that they may be easily used for the wiping of the lip of the chalice.







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