The Sanctuary



"They shall make a sanctuary for me, that I may dwell in their midst"

— Exodus 25:8.

The sanctuary is the area, often raised, where the altar, the ambo, the celebrant's chair and, in many churches, the tabernacle are located.

Separated from the nave, this is the place reminiscent of the Holy of the Holies, that is, the inner sanctuary of the temple described in the Old Testament. (Interestingly, the altar and tabernacle were centuries apart in their introduction into the Church.)

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal defines the sanctuary as "the place where the altar stands, where the word of God is proclaimed, and where the priest, the deacon and other ministers exercise their offices" (No. 295).

** The sanctuary's elevation above the nave floor serves to enhance the view of the laity but also exemplifies a special, sacred place*







https://www.osvnews.com/amp/2017/01/08/inside-our-sacred-space/