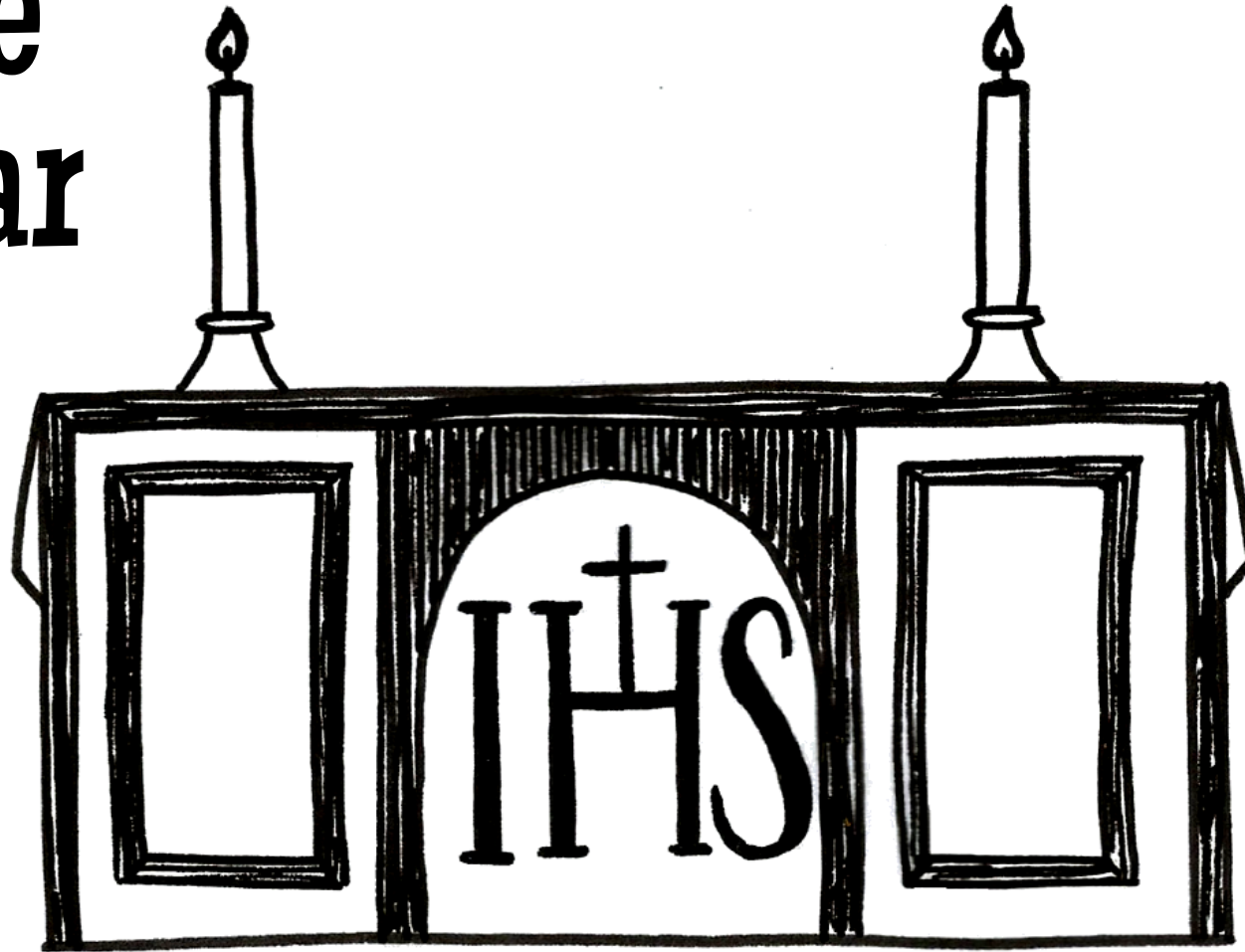


The Altar



In the center of the sanctuary of your church you will likely see something that looks like a table. Covered in a white cloth with candles on the left and the right, this special table is called the altar. The altar is the sacred place where the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated.

The priest stands at the altar during Mass. The top of the altar holds the bread and wine that becomes Body and Blood of Christ. Sometimes altars can be decorated with symbols that help us think of Jesus. This altar has the letters “IHS” which are the first three letters of Jesus in Greek.