



CELEBRATE COMMUNION!

How to Create Your Stole

What is a stole?

A stole is a long narrow band of fabric which is worn over the shoulders. It is worn around the neck with ends hanging down in front. The general shape is similar to the yokes that animals wear to carry a burden or pull a cart or wagon. Pastors wear stoles to indicate that they are servants of God.

Why do we wear stoles?

We wear stoles to say that we are ready to follow Jesus, to be his servants in His world. It also shows that we are willing to be united with others to serve together.

Jesus said: *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart: and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Mathew 11:29-30*

To Celebrate Communion we decorate stoles with symbols of the Lord's Supper: wine and bread. We also add other symbols that tell of the life of Christ. We also may add one or two symbols which celebrate the talents and interests that God has given us. Designing your own stole allows you to share the story of your faith journey so far.

How do you make a stole?

Have the following items on hand to make creating your stole easy:

Items We Provide:

- How to Create Your Stole Handout
- Stole (*white pellon fabric*)
- 1 Piece of Purple Felt (*for wine glass*)
- 1 Piece of Brown Felt (*for bread*)
- Additional squares of felt (*various colors*)

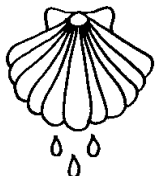
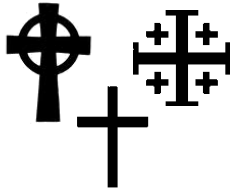



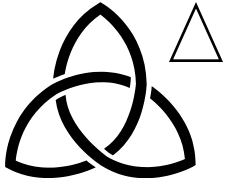
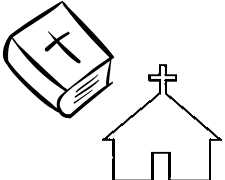
Additional Items Found at Home:

- Any additional fabric/craft materials
- Craft glue (*tacky glue works best*) or a hot glue gun
- Pins (*to help hold pieces of felt as they dry*)
- Fabric paints or markers
- Permanent markers (*Sharpies work best*)


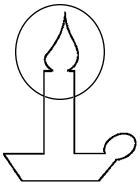





Special Symbols

Below you will find many examples of symbols to add to your stole. There are many more symbols you can use that are not displayed below — be creative and choose symbols that have special meaning to you! Create your symbols by drawing them by hand, following stencils you print out, using die cuts, or even tracing things like cookie cutters!


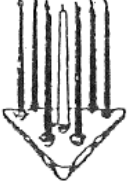


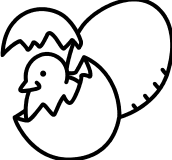




Symbols of Sacraments & Christianity



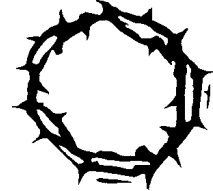
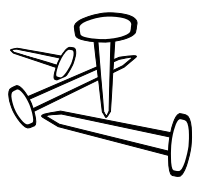

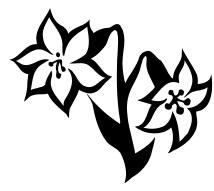
	<p>Baptism In Baptism, God uses water and His word to proclaim that we are His children, loved, cared for, and forgiven.</p>
	<p>Various Crosses Luke 23:26-33. Christ was willing to suffer and die on the cross to show us how much he loves us. There are many shapes of crosses. The empty cross symbolizes His resurrection.</p>
	<p>Fish Apostles were often referred to as “fishers of men.” This symbol was also used as a sort of password during times of persecution by the Roman government. It is a Greek acrostic for “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior.”</p>
	<p>Dove Matthew 3:16—17 A dove is considered a symbol of the Holy Spirit as it descended upon Christ during His Baptism.</p>
	<p>The Lord’s Supper A chalice and bread often represent Holy Communion. You will add a wine glass & wafer to your stole following the templates included with this packet.</p>
	<p>The Trinity A triangle, represents one God in three Persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. When drawn as an endless line, having no beginning and no end, this symbolizes these three members as eternal and unified.</p>
	<p>Church or Bible God’s word is in the Bible, which is preached in the church.</p>

Symbols of Advent or Christmas

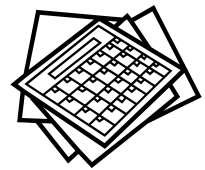
	<p>Lamb John 1: 29 “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”</p>
	<p>Candle Matthew 5:13-15 A candle reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, and Jesus calls us to be lights in the world.</p>
	<p>Star Matthew 2:1—12 A star led the wisemen to Jesus.</p>
	<p>Angel Luke 2: 8—12 Angels told the shepherds.</p>
	<p>Cresche Luke 2:6—7 The image of the Nativity Scene. Jesus was born in a manger in a stable.</p>
	<p>Advent Wreath A wreath with four candles (one for each Sunday before Christmas). Begin by lighting one candle and light another candle each week until all four are lit before Christmas.</p>
	<p>Crown Mark 11:6—10. People greeted Jesus as their king as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.</p>

Symbols of Lent or Easter

	Lamb of God Jesus is the lamb of God. He died for our sins. In the Old Testament a lamb was sacrificed to atone for the sins of people.
	Lenten Triad Six candles for each of the six weeks of Lent. The seventh candle in the middle is for Easter. All six candles are lighted the first week, and one less each week till all are out on week six. They remain dark until Easter.
	Pelican The pelican will die to protect its young, just as Jesus died for us.
	Pretzel This food represents fasting during Lent; shaped like arms folded in prayer. The salt reminds us that we are to be the "salt of the earth." Mt 5:13.
	Egg & Chick Symbolizes new life when the shell is cracked and a chick is born.
	Cocoon The caterpillar spins a cocoon. It looks dead, but out of it comes new life.
	Butterfly A butterfly emerges from the cocoon, a beautiful new life, a symbol of the eternal life we have in Christ.
	Palm Branch Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem. Read from John 12:13. Talk about Jesus as our king.
	Washbowl & Towel Read John 13:5. Jesus washed the disciples feet. Proclaims Jesus as servant. Talk about Jesus' humility and service.

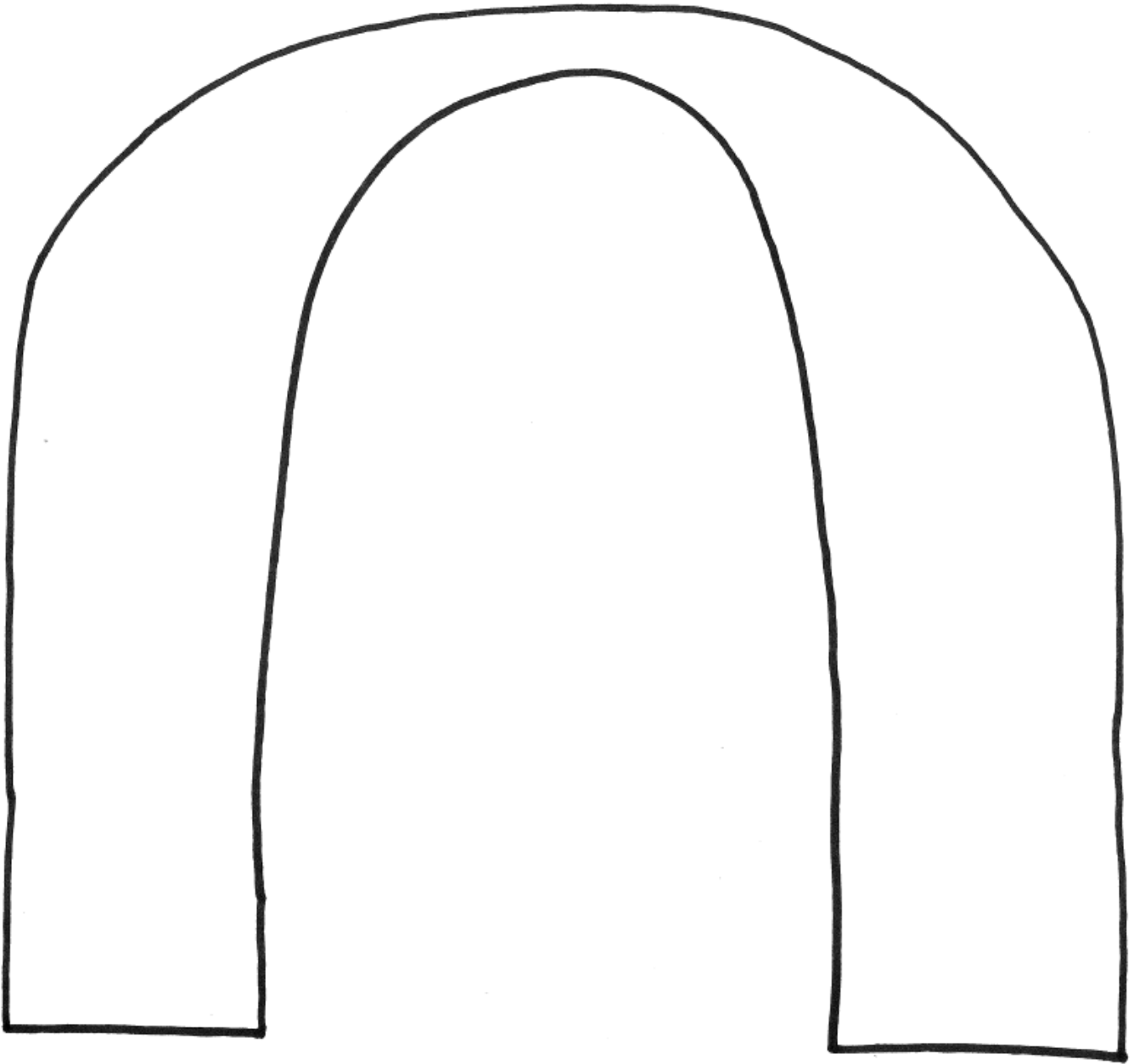
	Praying Hands Luke 22:41. Talk about Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Sing a song about prayer, pray together.
	Rooster Luke 22:61. Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed. Talk about standing up for Jesus (or doing the right thing) when people tease us.
	Crown of Thorns Mark 15:17. A crown is a symbol of power and royalty. It was placed on Jesus' head to make fun of him for being called King of the Jews.
	Nails Jesus was crucified. To crucify means that a person is nailed to a wooden cross and left to die.
	Wheat Stalks or Bread "This is my body broken for you." On the Thursday before Jesus died (<i>Maundy Thursday</i>), we remember that Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper, His body and blood.
	Lily John 11:25. Plants grow from a bulb like a lily or from seed. Compare Christ's death and resurrection with the bulb or seed that looks dead being planted in the earth. Soon, a beautiful plant comes out of the ground.

Personal Symbols

A B C	Name Be sure to include your name.
	Important Dates Add significant dates to your stole such as your birthday, your Baptism (<i>if known</i>), or the date of your Communion Celebration.
	Special Gifts You may include one or two personal symbols that remind you of how God blesses you in your life. Perhaps this is a special gift you share with others or an activity that you enjoy. This is limited to 2 symbols.

Create Your Own Stole

Come up with a creative design for your own stole using the template below. Ask your parents & friends for fun ideas!



Don't Forget!

Did you remember to include in your stole:

- Purple Wine Glass (*following template above*)
- Tan or Brown Wafer (*following template above*)
- Your Name
- Significant Dates (*birth date, Baptism, Communion Celebration*)
- 1–2 Special Gifts/Personal Symbols