

What a Bishop Wears

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will wear particular vestments and insignia of his Office of Bishop. Different vestments and insignia are required depending on the liturgy, ceremony, or event being celebrated. Below is a listing of the basic and special things a bishop wears.

ALB: Long, white linen tunic-like robe worn by liturgical ministers. It is worn under the chasuble.

STOLE: Long thin band of material worn around the neck of ordained ministers. For priests and bishops, the stole hangs down three or four feet in front. The deacon wears the stole over his left shoulder and fastened at his waist on the right side.

CHASUBLE: Outer liturgical vestment worn when celebrating Mass. Color changes with the liturgical year and on special feasts

EPISCOPAL RING: The symbol of the bishop's espousal to the Church.

CASSOCK: Floor-length garment worn by clergy. The Roman style has 33 buttons (representing Christ's 33 years on Earth). It is black for priests, purple for bishops, red for cardinals, white for the pope. The purple cassock for bishops has red cuffs on the sleeves. It is known as the "**choir cassock**" and may be worn under the alb and on its own for special ceremonies when the bishop is not celebrating mass. Cardinals and bishops also have a "**house cassock**" that is black with red or purple piping. The house cassock is worn for non-liturgical occasions.

COLLARE (Rabat): White collar and short bib-like material worn around the neck under the cassock. The color of the material matches the color of the cassock.

FASCIA (Sash): Wide belt worn around the waist with the cassock with two longer bands hemmed with fringe that hang from the waist. Priests wear black, bishops wear purple, cardinals wear red, and the pope wears white.

SIMAR: Short black shoulder cape worn over the house cassock.

MOZZETTA: Longer purple cape that comes to just above the waist and buttoned in front and worn over the "choir cassock" for special ceremonies.

FERRAILOLO: Long purple cape worn by the bishop over the house cassock for solemn non-liturgical events and ceremonies.

ZUCCHETTO: Small, round silk skullcap worn by Catholic bishops. It is white for the pope, red for a cardinal and purple for a bishop.

MITRE: A bishop's liturgical headdress. The mitre features two fringed lappets or "infulae" (Latin for band) that hang from the back.

CROSIER: A bishop's pastoral staff. It symbolizes a bishop's role as caretaker of the flock and shows his authority and jurisdiction.

PECTORAL CROSS: Worn over the mozzetta when in choir dress. When in choir dress, the cross is worn on a green and gold cord. When the bishop is dressed in a suit, it is usually placed in the breast pocket with the chain showing.

ROCHET: A white linen knee-high garment resembling a surplice. Worn under the mozzetta in choir dress.

BIRETTA: Square purple cap with three points and a tuft (pompon) used in special ceremonies.

VIMP: Veil or scarf worn around the shoulders of the servers who hold the mitre and crosier when the bishop is not using them during liturgical services.

