

ACOLYTE'S & LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER'S GLOSSARY

Ablutions. The ritual of hand washing by the Celebrant following the Offertory. Also, the cleansing of the chalice, paten, and other vessels after administration of communion.

Acolyte. One who assists or serves the priest or deacon at the altar before, during, and after the Communion service.

Altar Book. The large book containing the text from “The Book of Common Prayer” and service music for the celebrant at the Eucharist.

Ambo. A raised pulpit or lectern.

Aumbry. Or, “Ambry”. A recess or receptacle built into the wall for the Reserved Sacrament, usually located near the altar. (See tabernacle)

Baptismal Font. The basin for the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Burse. The pocket or envelope of stiff board covered with material of the same liturgical color as the vestments, in which the corporal is kept when not in use on the altar.

Celebrant. The principal officiant at the Eucharist and other Sacramental services. The Bishop is the ordinary celebrant, or, if the Bishop is not present, a priest.

Chalice. The “common cup” of the Lord's Supper. Typically made of costly metal, but may also be a ceramic cup, into which the wine (and a little water) is poured, to be consecrated during Holy Eucharist, and given to the congregation during Communion.

Chalice Veil. A square piece of material (of the same liturgical colors as the vestments) used to cover the chalice and paten when not in use. The burse (with the corporal & purificator inside) rests on top of the veiled chalice.

Chasuble. A long wide sleeveless vestment, worn by the celebrant at the Eucharist. It is of the liturgical color of the day or season. The chasuble symbolizes the glory of God filling the Holy Place.

Ciborium. A covered metal or ceramic vessel in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept when reserved in a tabernacle or aumbry.

Collect. A prayer that is sung or said on behalf of the people by the celebrant or officiant at liturgical celebrations.

Cope. A long cape worn over the shoulders by the celebrant, or officiant at various liturgies (processions, burials, etc.) or by a bishop. It has a clasp at the chest and is worn over an alb and stole and other vestments, corresponding to the liturgical color of the day or season.

Corporal. A large square white cloth, usually linen, that is placed on the altar – upon which chalice and paten are placed.

Credence Table. A table, usually to the right of the altar, on which the vessels and other items for the celebration of the Eucharist are kept.

Crucifer. One who carries the Processional Cross and usually leads the procession.

Cruets. Glass or metal containers with stoppers and handles for the wine and water. They are usually found on the Credence Table.

Dalmatic. A tunic worn by the Deacon of the Mass. Usually, it is ornate and corresponds in color and fabric to the chasuble worn by the Celebrant.

Doxology. Words said or sung in praise of the Holy Trinity.

Elements. The bread and wine to be consecrated at the Eucharist.

Eucharistic Candles. Two candles placed on the altar, at each end of the altar. As you face the altar with your back to the Nave, the one on the right is known as the “Epistle Candle” and one on the left is known as the “Gospel Candle”. They are lit before each Eucharistic Service and extinguished at the end of the service. The Epistle Candle should be lit first and extinguished last, if only the two candles are used. The Gospel Candle “never stands alone.”

Flagon. A large glass or metal container often used for wine to be consecrated at the Eucharist, if more than one chalice is used during the administration of communion.

Genuflection. The bending of the right knee when reverencing the Blessed Sacrament.

Intinction. A way of administration of elements of communion by dipping the bread in the consecrated wine and placing on the tongue of the one receiving Communion.

Lavabo. The table or niche where a pitcher, bowl and towel set are used for washing the celebrant’s fingers after the Offertory at the Eucharist, or at other times such as when oil or chrism is used.

Lavabo Bowl. The metal or ceramic dish into which the water is poured by the server at the lavabo, for the ablutions. Where churches do not have a separate lavabo, these items are generally placed on the credence table.

Lavabo Towel. A piece a cloth presented to the celebrant by the server to dry his fingers during the ablutions.

Lay Reader. (Or, simply “Reader.”) One who is licensed to lead the Daily Offices and other non-sacramental prayer book services. A Licensed Lay Reader should not to be confused with a “Lector” (See below).

Lectern. The Book-stand or podium from which the lessons and sometimes the Gospel are read at the Eucharist and other offices. Also called an Ambo.

Lector. A person who reads the lessons at the Liturgy.

Liturgy. The “work of the people.” In Western usage this term may apply to any public celebration of the Church. In the Churches of the East, the Divine Liturgy refers specifically to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Nave. The area in the church where people are gathered for the liturgy.

Office Lights. The six candles- three on each side of the cross which are lighted for the Daily Office -- the liturgical services for the order of daily prayers, (Morning and Evening Prayer.) They are also used at a Sung Eucharist, and on certain services for special days.

Pall. A stiffened square of linen (or Other) white cloth that is placed over the chalice to keep objects from falling into the wine. The term may also refer to the cloth covering the casket or urn during the Burial of the Dead.

Paschal Candle. A large decorated (with a cross and Alpha and Omega letters) placed in a holder in the north side of the sanctuary and lighted at all services throughout Eastertide. It is also lighted near the Baptismal Font when there is a Baptism in the Church.

Paten. A metal or ceramic plate on which the bread is placed for consecration and from which the consecrated bread is administered at the Holy Communion

Pavement Lights. Large white candles in candlestand which stands on the floor, one on each side of front of the altar. These may be the same candles as the Torches carried by acolytes in procession.

Pectoral Cross. A large cross worn by a bishop.

Piscina. A sink for washing the vessels used at the Eucharist and for reverently disposing of wine that has been consecrated. The piscina does not drain into the sewer or a disposal system, but directly to the ground.

Pre-Sanctified. See, “Reserve Sacrament”.

ProceSSIONAL Cross. A metal or wooden cross affixed to a pole and carried in processions by the Crucifer.

Pulpit. The place from which the sermon is preached and from which the Gospel may be read.

Purificator. A fine linen (or other) white cloth used for wiping the chalice during the administration of Communion and for cleansing the paten and chalice during ablutions.

Requiem Mass. A Mass with music for the repose of souls.

Reserve Sacrament. The Consecrated Bread and Wine reserved in the Tabernacle/Aumbry for administration to the sick or others who are not able attend the celebration of the Eucharist. Also referred to as the “Pre-sanctified.”

Sanctuary Candle. A clear/translucent container with a candle that burns near the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. The candle is never extinguished when the Sacrament is present.

Sacristy. A room where the vessels, vestments, and other liturgical objects are kept, and also may be the room where the clergy and assistants vest before the Liturgy, (where there is no separate vestry room). See “Vestry”.

Sanctuary. The area of the church surrounding the altar.

Sanctus Bell. A bell or set of bells sometimes called Sacred Bell because it is rung at the time of the Sanctus, the “Holy, Holy, Holy, and may be rung to call attention to the Consecration of the bread and wine. In some churches it is rung at the elevations of the consecrated elements by the Celebrant.

Sedillia. Seats for the clergy, lay ministers and acolytes in the Sanctuary.

Stole. A long strip of cloth or material used by bishops, priests, and deacons when officiating at the Eucharist or other sacramental functions. It is worn over the alb and is of the liturgical color of the day or season.

Tabernacle. A box or house-shaped receptacle for the Reserved Sacrament located on or near the altar. (See Aumbry)

Torchbearer. Acolytes who carry the torches or processional candles, one on each side of the Processional Cross.

Vestry. The “vestry” commonly refers to the group of lay leaders responsible for the ongoing needs and ministry of a parish. However, the “vestry” also refers to the room where the clergy vest.