

SECTION VI

GLOSSARY

*Uploaded August 2019*



**GLOSSARY**

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| Alb                   | A white, sleeved garment which covers the entire cassock.  |
| Alms Basin            | A large circular vessel of silver, in which are placed the offerings of the congregation.  |
| Amice                 | A large square, or oblong, of white linen or cotton. It is worn about the shoulders, tied with crossed strings.                                  |
| Aumbry                | A closed niche in the sanctuary wall used for reserved sacrament for the holy oils.  |
| Bread Box             | A box, usually of silver, in which is kept the bread or wafers for the Holy Communion.   |
| Burse                 | A square case used to hold the purificators at the Holy Communion.   |
| Chalice               | The cup used for the wine at the Holy Communion.   |
| Chasuble              | The chief Eucharistic vestment. It is oval in shape, made without sleeves and has an opening for the head.                                       |
| Chrism                | A consecrated oil used for ceremonial anointing. Seldom used at St. Albans.  |
| Ciborium              | A chalice-like cup with a cover, used for the bread at the Holy Communion.   |
| Cincture              | A wide, flat, cloth belt or girdle worn around the cassock.  |
| Cope                  | A long elaborate cloak of colored silk or brocade worn by a bishop or priest at processions on festival occasions.                               |
| Corporal              | A square cloth of white linen. The sacred vessels are placed upon it at a celebration of the Holy Communion.                                     |
| Cotta                 | A white garment similar to a surplice.   |
| Credence              | A shelf or table upon which the cruets, bread box, lavabo bowl, lavabo towel, and extra chalices are placed in readiness for the Holy Communion. |
| Credence Linen        | Oblong linen to cover the credence table.  |
| Elements              | The bread, wine, and water which are used at the Holy Communion.   |
| Epistle Side          | The right side of the sanctuary as one faces the altar.  |
| Eucharist             | One of the most ancient names for the Holy Communion; comes from the Greek meaning "thanksgiving".   |
| Eucharistic Vestments | The special vestments worn at a celebration of the Holy Communion; alb, amice, girdle, stole, chasuble.  |
| Ewer                  | The container holding the baptismal water at the font.   |
| Fair Linen            | The principal white linen cloth covering the altar, required by rubric.  |

**GLOSSARY**

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| Font           | The bowl of silver, on a pedestal, in which the water for Holy Baptism is blessed.  |
| Frontal        | A covering which hangs over the front of the altar, reaching to the floor.  |
| Girdle         | A white rope of linen or cotton worn about the waist over the alb.  |
| Gospel Side    | The left side of the sanctuary as one faces the altar.  |
| Host           | The consecrated bread or wafer at the Holy Communion. The priest's host is larger than the wafers used to communicate the people.   |
| IHS            | The Sacred monogram. The first three letters of the name JESUS in Greek.  |
| Lavabo Bowl    | A small bowl for water used by the celebrant at the Holy Communion to wash his fingers.   |
| Lavabo Towel   | The small towel which is used with the lavabo bowl.   |
| Missal         | The altar service book containing the service of the Holy Communion.  |
| Missal Stand   | The stand or desk upon which the altar service book rests.  |
| Offertory      | The offering of the bread and wine and alms at the Holy Communion   |
| Orphrey        | An embroidered band on a chasuble or other vestment or hanging.   |
| Pall           | A square of cardboard or plastic covered with linen, placed over the chalice.   |
| Pall, Funeral  | A large silk or brocade cover for a coffin.   |
| Paschal Candle | A large candle which stands on the floor of the sanctuary on the gospel side for the Great Vigil of Easter until the Ascension. Day. It symbolizes our Lord's Resurrection.                                 |
| Paten          | The place for the bread used at the Holy Communion.   |
| Piscina        | A basin with a drain directly to the ground where water used in the sacrament of Holy Baptism is poured; or where the first water used in cleansing the vessels and linens of the Holy Communion is poured. |
| Purificator    | A small square of linen with a cross upon it, used by the celebrant to cleanse the chalice and paten after the Holy Communion.  |
| Retable        | A shelf at the back of the altar (pronounced retable); also called a gradine.   |
| Rubric         | A rule or direction in the Book of Common Prayer governing the conduct of services.   |

**GLOSSARY**

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|-----------------|---|
| Sacristy        | The place or room in which the sacred vessels, linens, and vestments are kept.  |
| Sanctuary       | The space inside the Altar rail.  |
| Sanctuary Light | A light, usually a candle, (at St. Alban's the red candle on top of the Sanctuary Aumbry) that is constantly lit whenever there is reserve sacrament present in the Aumbry. |
| Stole           | A long, narrow band of silk worn over the shoulders of the clergy. It is worn over the surplice or alb and is the color of the day.   |
| Surplice        | A white vestment with full flowing sleeves. It is longer than a cotta and normally has a cross on the front.  |
| Thurible        | The vessel which holds the burning incense. It swings on a chain. The "boat" is the metal container in which the incense is reserved.                                       |
| Wafer           | The unleavened bread used at the Holy Communion.  |

**\*The definitions for the glossary are reprinted from A Working Manual for Altar Guilds, Third Edition, by Dorothy C. Diggs.**