

Definition of Church Terms

Ablutions:	Ceremonial cleansing of the chalice and paten by the celebrant after the Holy Communion.
Acolyte:	One who attends or serves the priest(s) in the sanctuary.
Alb:	A white, sleeved garment which covers the entire cassock. It is worn by the sacred ministers at Holy Communion as part of the Eucharistic vestments.
Alms Basin:	also spelled Bason - A large circular vessel of greater width than depth, usually made of wood, brass, or silver, in which are placed the offerings of the congregation.
Altar:	The Holy Table upon which the Holy Communion is celebrated.
Altar Bread:	The wafers or bread used at the Holy Communion.
Amice:	A large square, or oblong, of white linen or cotton. It is worn about the shoulders, over the cassock.. The upper part is first placed over the head that it may fall like a collar over the alb. It is tied with crossed strings around the waist.
Aumbry:	A closed niche in the sanctuary wall used from ancient times for Reservation of the Sacrament or for the Holy Oils.
Baptistry/Baptistery:	The place where the font is located usually near the entrance of the church.
Bishop:	The highest order of the sacred ministry in the Episcopal Church; the head of a diocese, elected by the diocese.
Bishop, Presiding:	The chief bishop of the American Episcopal Church, elected by the House of Bishop to preside over the Church for a definite term.

Bishop's Chair:	A special chair in the gospel side of the sanctuary, reserved for the diocesan bishop on his visitations.
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 corporal, the post communion veil, and the purificators at the Holy Communion.
Cassock:	A long, closely fitting garment reaching from the neck to the shoe tops, worn by clergy, acolytes, and choir. It may be worn for every official occasion. A priest wears black, a bishop violet or red.
Celebrant:	The priest who celebrates the Holy Communion.
Celebration:	The consecration and administration of the Holy Communion.
Censer:	A swinging vessel on a chain, used for burning incense.
Cere cloth:	The first, waxed linen cloth upon the altar.
Chalice:	The gold or silver cup used for the wine at the Holy Communion.
Chancel:	The east end of the church, raised above the floor of the nave, containing the choir (usually) and the sanctuary.
Chasuble:	The chief Eucharistic vestment. It is oval in shape, made without sleeves and has an opening for the head.
Choir:	The choristers; also the part of the chancel between the nave and the sanctuary, where the daily offices are said.
Chrism:	A consecrated oil used for ceremonial anointing.
Ciborium:	A chalice-like cup with a cover, used for the bread at the Holy Communion. Also used to hold the Reserved Sacrament. Ours is a glass low flat dish with a lid. It is also used during the communion service by one of the servers to pass the bread.
Cope:	A long elaborate cloak of colored silk or brocade worn by a bishop or priest at processions on festival occasions. It has a clasp at the neck called a Morse.
Corporal:	A square cloth of white linen. The sacred vessels are placed upon it at a celebration of the Holy Communion.

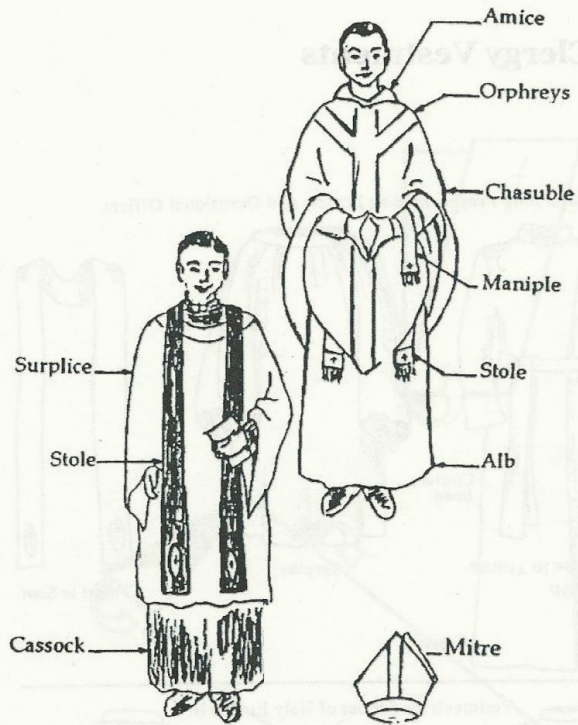
Cotta:	A white garment similar to a surplice, but shorter and without a cross on the front. Worn by the choir and acolytes over the cassock.
Credence:	A shelf or table upon which the cruets, bread box, lavabo bowl, and lavabo towel are placed in readiness for the Holy Communion.
Crozier:	A bishop's pastoral staff.
Crucifix:	The cross with the figure of our Lord upon it.
Crucifer:	The cross-bearer in a procession.
Cruet:	A vessel holding the wine or water used at the Holy Communion. For Blessed wine always use the Cruet with the "R" on it. There are 2 Cruets with etching on them be sure to use the one with the "R". This it to help tell which wine is blessed and which is not. The "R" stands for reserved.
Deacon:	The lowest of the three orders of the sacred ministry; also the minister who reads the gospel at a solemn celebration of the Holy Communion, whether he is a bishop, priest, or deacon.
Diocese:	The see or jurisdiction of a bishop.
Dossal:	A tapestry or curtain which hangs behind the altar. Elements: The bread, the wine, and the water which are used at the Holy Communion.
Epistle Side:	The right side of the sanctuary as one faces the altar. The side from which the epistle is read.
Ewer:	The container holding the baptismal water at the font.
Eucharist:	One of the names for the Holy Mysteries; the Holy Communion.
Eucharistic Vestments:	The special vestments worn at a celebration of the Holy Communion; alb, amice, girdle, stole, chasuble, and maniple.
Fair Linen:	The principle white linen cloth covering the altar required by rubric.
Flagon:	A vessel to hold the reserve wine at the Holy Communion.
Font:	The bowl of stone, marble, or metal, on a pedestal, in which the water for Holy Baptism is blessed.
Fronatal:	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. Black girdles are sometimes worn over the cassock.
Gospel side:	The left side of the sanctuary as one faces the altar from the back. The side from which the gospel is read.
Holy Mysteries:	A ancient term used for the Holy Communion.
Hood:	The short cape or shield at the back of the cope.
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.
Incense:	A mixture of spices for ceremonial burning, symbolizing prayer.
Intinction Cup:	Used to dip the host into the wine as Communion
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.
Lectern:	A stand at the chancel rail upon which the Bible rests.
Luminaries:	A explanation, or preface to the Lessons and Gospel readings.
Maniple:	A short band or scarf worn on the left arm of the celebrant at Holy Communion as part of the Eucharistic vestments.
Mass:	One of the names for the Holy Mysteries; the Holy Communion.
Mensa:	The top of the altar, or Holy Table.
Missal:	The Altar service book, containing the service of the Holy Communion and the collects, epistles, and gospels.
Missal Stand:	The stand or desk upon which the altar service book rests.
Mitre:	The headdress of a bishop; two pointed and cloven worn with the cope or Eucharistic vestments. It symbolizes the "tongues of fire" at the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost.

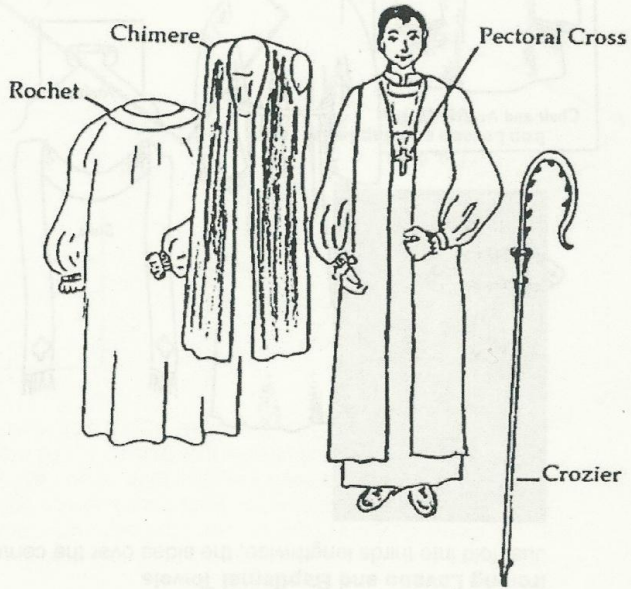
Morse:	The clasp at the neck of the cope, sometimes jeweled.
Nave:	The body of the church building, where the congregation worships.
Offertory:	The offering of the bread and wine and alms at the Holy Communion.
Office:	A service of the church, other than the Holy Communion, such as Morning and Evening Prayer.
Ordination:	The conferring of Holy Orders by a bishop.
Orphey:	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 from Easter even until the Ascension Day. It symbolizes our Lord's forty days on earth after His Resurrection.
Paten:	The silver or gold plate for the bread used at the Holy Communion.
Pectoral Cross:	The large cross worn by a bishop.
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 cleaning the vessels and lines of the Holy Communion is poured.
Priest:	The second of the three orders of the sacred ministry; one who has been ordained by a bishop to administer the Sacraments of the Church.
Protector:	A cloth used to cover the altar, between services, to protect it from dust.
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.
Pyx:	A small receptacle, like a watch case, used to carry the Reserved Sacrament to the sick.
Rector:	A priest who is the head of a parish.

Rochet:	A long white linen vestment with wide sleeves tied at the wrists, worn by a bishop under the chimere. It may have lace at the hem and on the cuffs. It generally is worn under a cope on occasions when the bishop does not wear the chimere. A bishop may also wear a short rochet with close fitting sleeves like an alb.
Rood:	A cross or crucifix.
Rubric:	A rule or direction in the Book of Common Prayer governing the conduct of services.
Sacristy:	The place or room in which the sacred vessels, linens, and vestments are kept.
Sedilia:	The seats, within the sanctuary, for the clergy and acolytes.
See:	The diocese of a bishop.
Server:	An acolyte.
Silk Chalice Veil:	A square covering of silk or brocade, used to cover the chalice and paten before and after the service of Holy Communion.
Stole:	A long, narrow band of silk worn over the shoulders of the clergy. It is worn over the surplice, also over the hood.
Surplice:	A white vestment with full flowing sleeves. It is longer than a cotta and has a cross on the front. Worn with the stole, it is the standard clergy vesture for any of the Church's services.
Use:	A term meaning the way things are done.
Vicar:	A priest in charge of a mission or chapel.
Vigil:	The eve of a feast; a fast before a feast and a watch, as before the Blessed Sacrament on Maundy Thursday.
Wafer:	The unleavened bread used at the Holy Communion.
Zuchetto:	The red skull cap worn by a bishop. If worn by a priest it is black.

Priest's Vestments

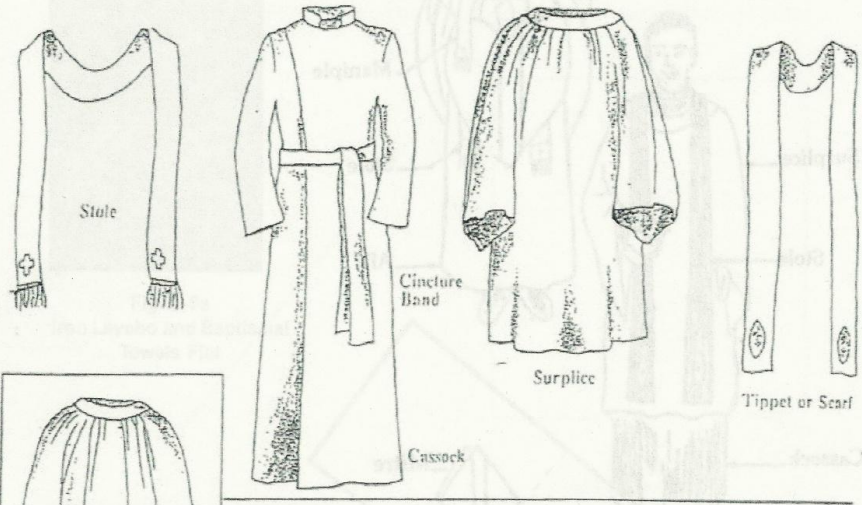


Bishop's Vestments



Clergy Vestments

Clergy Vestments for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Occasional Offices



Vestments for Service of Holy Eucharist

